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Reports of NATO 'Compensation' Cited

LD2312232988 Moscow TASS in English 2304 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev:

There are reports about NATO's new plans to "compensate" by nuclear aviation for the U.S. intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles that are to be destroyed under the INF forces Treaty.

According to the information of the West German workers' society "Friedent", the deployment of U.S. F-15E bombers capable of carrying nuclear bombs and missiles will be started at the military air field in Bitburg, Rhineland-Palatinate, as early as 1989. The plane is a modernized version of the F-15C/D fighter plane with a radius approximating that of U.S. intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles that are to be eliminated. Altogether it is planned to deploy in Western Europe 200 aircraft of this type, the society's survey says.

It should be noted that if this "compensation" is made, it will coincide with the implementation of the Soviet Union's act of goodwill. In the course of two years the USSR will unilaterally reduce the numerical strength of its Armed Forces by 500 thousand men and will make large cuts in comtemporary armaments. It will specifically scrap 800 military aircraft.

NATO's "compensation" by aviation will have a clearly destabilizing, provocative character. The air force of the Atlantic bloc already has an edge over the aviation of the Warsaw Treaty member countries in the European theatre of operations. While the Soviet Armed Forces will be reduced, NATO intends to considerably build up its air-launched nuclear weapon systems, apparently pursuing the illusory aim of military supremacy.

NATO plans for the "compensation"—the elimination of some systems of weapons of mass destruction and replacing them with others, which are not less dangerous, are based on the premises that were used or seemed suitable prior to the nuclear age. Nowadays the buildup of the military might does not make any country or group of countries omnipotent.

Huge amounts of nuclear weapons have already been stockpiled in the world. They are enough to destroy the civilisation on earth many times over. The deployment of new nuclear weapons will not help achieve any political aims. It will only enhance the likelihood of the total nuclear war in which there will be neither victors nor vanquished.

NATO's Woerner Wishes Gorbachev 'Success'

LD2712100188 Moscow TASS in English 0942 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Bonn December 27 TASS—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has set much in motion, and I wish him success, said NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner in an interview to the West German newspaper BILD.

There is now a unique possibility for making concrete peace building steps, namely reduction of potentials of conventional weapons, a 50 per cent cut in intercontinental missiles, full elimination of chemical weapons.

Werner meanwhile declared for a further build up of Western "defensive might". He asserted that "readiness for defence" slackened in the FRG and indirectly declared against withdrawal of American troops from Western Europe.

General Staff Official on Impact of Troop Cuts

PM2312110988 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Dec 88 Second Edition p 5

[Article by Major General Yu. Lebedev, deputy chief of an Armed Forces General Staff directorate: "Confidence Will Strengthen Security. USSR Armed Forces General Staff Representative Comments on New Soviet Peace Proposals"]

[Text] The troop reduction announced for the European part of the USSR and the territory of our allies—the GDR, the CSSR, and Hungary—unconnected with talks under the Vienna meeting mandate, together with the substantial reduction in the Soviet troop grouping in the Asian part of the country, constitutes an effective step on the way to strengthening stability in interstate relations. The idea of building our Armed Forces on the basis of the defense sufficiency principle and the invitation to NATO countries to embark on this path not in words but in deeds are confirmed by our state's unilateral steps.

Of course, this principle must be realized on a mutual basis. But the peace action of the USSR and the other Warsaw Pact countries, whose depth and scale still have to be fully realized in the West, appears all the more significant and weighty.

In adopting such a bold and responsible decision, M.S. Gorbachev emphasized in his speech from the UN rostrum, our country will maintain its defense capability at the level of reasonable and reliable sufficiency. But what is the essence of the principle of defense sufficiency?

It is, above all, that the composition of the Armed Forces confined to certain limits, the quantity and quality of their arms, and the level of combat readiness strictly accord with the extent of the military threat and ensure military equilibrium and strategic parity between the opposing sides. A reasonable limit of defense sufficiency is the level necessary to ensure a guaranteed repulse to an attack and a crushing rebuff to an aggressor under any conditions of war unleashed by him. At the same time, this rules out the possibility of carrying out surprise or major offensive operations. The upcoming reduction in the USSR Armed Forces and arms takes full account of the peculiarities of the defense sufficiency principle.

The withdrawal of six tank divisions from the GDR, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary and also of formations and units such as landing-assault and river-crossing units will serve to reduce the surprise factor, as well as the risk of war as a whole. An unambiguously defensive structure will be imparted to the other divisions still remaining on our allies' territory.

It is known that simultaneous provision is being made for sizable reductions in armed forces and arms in the European part of the USSR, as well as in the strength of the military grouping in the Asian part of the country. Naturally, this question occurs to the Soviet people: Will this not lower our motherland's defense capability, and will we not have to backtrack?

The reduction in the strength of our Armed Forces by 500,000 men and in the volume of conventional arms by 10,000 tanks, 8,500 artillery systems, and 800 aircraft has been strictly weighed and is commensurate with the defensive potential of the USSR and the other Warsaw Pact countries. As a result, there will be a significant reduction in existing imbalances, but it may be said with confidence that all this will be carried out within the framework of the existing approximate equilibrium between the military forces of the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

M.S. Gorbachev's UN speech drew attention to the fact that the first glimmers are to be seen in the world attesting that security can be ensured by reducing arms on a compromise basis. The realization of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles and the attainment of better mutual understanding with the states of Europe and Asia offer examples of this. All this, as well as the active line of the USSR, the other socialist states, and the entire progressive world community, enables us to hope for irreversibility in the process of movement toward a nuclear-free and nonviolent world. The reduction in our armed forces will undoubtedly require qualitative improvement in their training and instruction so as to maintain their combat readiness at the proper level.

When adopting decisions of fundamental importance, we naturally weighed the volume of the reductions and the qualitative changes to the structures of USSR Armed Forces units and formations on the basis of a careful analysis of the correlation between the two alliances' military potentials. At the same time we in no way underestimated the threat posed to us and our allies by the NATO bloc's powerful military groupings. Everything possible will continue to be done to ensure that no one is tempted to encroach on the security of the USSR and its allies.

Naturally, the arms that are reduced must not be used in the future for the purposes which they serve now. This means that they will be eliminated. However, we must not forget the possibility of using military hardware in the national economy. Therefore such possibilities will also obviously be envisaged when implementing the plans for arms reduction measures over 2 years, which are now being drawn up.

As for cutting personnel, this is a very sensitive issue, since it is connected with human destinies. This applies particularly to officers. This question was examined carefully at the USSR Defense Ministry. When resolving it, account will be taken of officers' length of service in the USSR Armed Forces, their housing provision, and, of course, their professional qualities. Questions of finding employment for them will not be overlooked either. Speaking as a whole, an individual approach to officers and NCO's is envisaged, taking account of the interests and needs of each person.

The new Soviet peace initiatives and their reality concretized in terms of deadlines and volumes cannot fail to be assessed in the West as a significant step in the cause of disarmament. They are an example of the military-technical substance of the Soviet Union's defensive doctrine and, despite their unilateral nature, give rise on a moral plane to the need for a matching [adekvatnyy] response from the West. This could be manifested in the NATO countries' adopting a constructive stand at the upcoming talks on the reduction of armed forces and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, desisting from plans to compensate for arms reductions, and incorporating naval forces in the talks.

'Observers Roundtable' Reviews Past Year

LD2512184788 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 25 Dec 88

["International Observers Roundtable" program, presented by Nikolay Agayants, with Boris Vasilyevich Andrianov and Igor Pavlovich Charikov, All-Union Radio foreign political commentators]

[Text] [Agayants] Hello, esteemed listeners. To begin, allow me to introduce the participants in today's meeting, the last this year—my colleagues, All-Union Radio foreign political commentators Boris Vasilyevich Andrianov and Igor Pavlovich Charikov.

In less than a week the chimes of the Kremlin's Spasskaya Tower will strike midnight and the New Year of 1989 will have arrived throughout the Soviet Union. On looking back, we pick out the most vivid and most important events of the outgoing year. Overall, both from the point of view of the domestic situation in our country and the wholesome processes taking place there, and from the point of view of international events, we could have rated it a positive and successful year if it were not for those tragic December days connected with the disastrous Armenian earthquake—our common misfortune and common anguish.

[Andrianov] Yes, the Soviet people took to heart the news of that terrible natural disaster, which caused human fatalities and descruction on a tremendous scale, as if it were their own personal misfortune. And sharing the Armenian people's grief over this most severe human tragedy, our entire country has come to the victims' aid.

[Charikov] And not just our country, Boris Vasilyevich—the misfortune has brought a previously unheard-of reaction from various parts of the planet. What I mean is the unprecedented worldwide solidarity, the wave of sincere sympathy, the sincere desire to render the necessary assistance and support to those who live in the earthquake zone, which has truly swept across state, geographical, and ideological boundaries. The disaster has shown poignantly that we all need precise and well-coordinated efforts not only in seismic zones, but wherever people require immediate and rapid assistance.

[Andrianov] I do not think it is any coincidence that both here in the Soviet Union and in other countries, too, people are thinking about setting up a special international center—perhaps under the United Nations, as the British GUARDIAN has suggested—setting up a rapid reaction center for all natural disasters, to render qualified and professional assistance to people in need. This would prevent fuss, confusion, duplication of efforts, etc.

[Agayants] Everything you have said is absolutely true, but there is another aspect that I would like to talk about in detail. In the most tragic way, the devastating earthquake in Armenia reminded us citizens of the earth just how fragile and easily damaged our planet remains and what danger results from human activities which disregard the laws of nature, which throw down a challenge to nature. I am referring both to ecological transformations and to the unbridled arms race—especially nuclear arms—threatening apocalyptical consequences for everyone, wherever they live, unless we now come to our senses and find sensible solutions. This brings one to an awareness of a very important necessity, the necessity to seek and find new political approaches for improving the international situation and for creating a nonnuclear and nonviolent world.

[Charikov] In other words, the necessity of introducing the new political thinking in our life, in relations between states and peoples.

[Agayants] Precisely. And from that point of view, the outgoing year has been a significant one for its many important landmark decisions, turning-points and developments. Perhaps we ought to recall here, Nikolay Ivanovich, that the essence of the new political thinking is based on the recognition of one very simple and, one might say, elementary, truth: mankind, though it be divided by national and social barriers and all manner of contradictions—sometimes even very sharp contradictions—lives in one home on planet Earth, this unique island of life in the universe. And in this home we have to live as good neighbors; we have to get down to reinforcing our home so that we do not perish together under the debris from it in a nuclear or any other cataclysm.

[Charikov] Indeed, this is the aim of all the foreign policy activities of our state, of the other socialist countries, and of all men of goodwill, as we have recently witnessed, particularly this year, the outgoing year. In determining the specific targets of its international strategy, the CPSU proceeds from the Leninist party program tenet that the main objective of Soviet foreign policy has been and remains ensuring favorable external conditions for refining socialist society and progressing towards communism. Attaining this goal in today's very complex and interconnected world is simply inseparable from removing the threat of a world war and ensuring universal security and disarmament.

[Agayants] Nineteen eighty-eight has been a year in which the restructuring in our country has been intensified and stepped up in literally every area—just think back to the 19th party conference—and a year in which, thanks to our constructive initiatives on the international stage, the very concept of peace has acquired a new and weighty substance. As for the processes underway and the developing trends that have determined the course of foreign political events, there are solid grounds for stating that the most important of these trends has been the establishment in interstate affairs of the new political thinking, which, as it turns into concrete decisions—for example, the ratification of the INF Treaty or the Geneva Afghanistan agreements—is changing the face of our planet for the better, step by step.

[Andrianov] Nor is there any doubt that the profound processes of restructuring, democratization, and glasnost taking place in our society and the sweeping developments and changes cannot fail to exert, and are exerting, the most wholesome influence regarding consolidating unity and cooperation between the socialist states and is serving to bring this cooperation up to qualitatively new levels.

[Charikov] This was confirmed this year by Comrade Gorbachev's visits to Yugoslavia and Poland and the meetings between our leaders and those of other socialist states in Moscow.

[Andrianov] Right, Igor Pavlovich. Hence the natural and common striving of the fraternal peoples and fraternal parties to impart maximum dynamism to this cooperation, while organically combining each country's initiatives with an overall policy agreed upon by all.

[Charikov] On the international stage this approach is convincingly and vividly demonstrated in the growing coordination of foreign policy moves by the Warsaw Pact member states. In economic cooperation, for instance, this approach is reflected in new joint steps geared to achieving a significant spurt in the fields of scientific technical, national economic, and social progress.

[Agayants] Unfortunately, Igor Pavlovich, there are still many objective and subjective difficulties on the way to implementing our (?enormous) plans. These plans, however, are by no means utopian, as, by force of inertia, those who wish us ill and our ideological foes are attempting to assert. The socialist community—as is confirmed by our cooperation in various spheres of human activity—possesses all it needs to successfully implement our ideas; we have mighty production potential, natural resources, and experienced specialists. So I do not think it would be a sin against the truth to say, as we look into the approaching year of 1989, that despite the existing difficulties and negative factors it will be a year of growing cooperation and interaction between our fraternal countries on the international scene.

[Andrianov] When we talk about the historical mission of socialism in today's world, I think we should stress in particular that socialism's capacity to accept and uphold constructive ideas and proposals, and to sort of accumulate them in its policies, is due to the fact that socialist society has no classes or social groups with an interest in unleashing wars or in maintaining tension in relations between peoples or in the arms race. It is the very nature of the society which has evolved in the socialist countries that allows them to act as carriers of healthy principles in world politics.

[Charikov] That is something we have seen in abundance, Boris Vasilyevich, during 1988. It is clear that the establishment of the new approaches and the new political thinking is also making noticeable positive changes in East-West relations. It is likewise clear that the more successful our states are in accelerating the development of socialism and in ensuring victory for the principles of glasnost and democratization, the greater will be the prestige and influence of the idea of the new political thinking worldwide.

[Agayants] We are correct to note that the priority stance in the Soviet state's foreign political activities, as drawn up and adopted by the 27th CPSU Congress and reasserted by the 19th party conference, has been and remains our policy of consolidating cooperation with the socialist states. We must not forget, however, that the state of international relations in today's world is largely determined and dependent on the course of Soviet-American relations, on the way in which our contacts and ties with the other capitalist states and the countries of what is known as the Third World are developing. In this respect it should be noted that this past year has not only given us plenty of food for thought and serious analysis, but has also produced certain developments, albeit not as rapidly as we would have liked, and albeit it with difficulties and disappointments. This is true regarding settling regional conflicts, to which a mighty and positive stimulus has been applied by the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan we mentioned earlier; it is true of the humanitarian sphere, of the disarmament sphere and, of course, of the sphere of Soviet-American relations.

[Andrianov] Of course, one must definitely mention here the fourth summit meeting in Moscow when the INF Treaty was ratified. The world public evaluated this event as historic. After all, a document came into force which has initiated real nuclear disarmament, in accordance with which the destruction of two classes of missiles has begun. Incidentally, for the first time in history the possibilities and rules have been determined for monitoring the work of plants where missiles were produced, including on-site inspection.

[Charikov] This treaty, as is common knowledge, concerns specifically the elimination of 826 Soviet intermediate-range missiles which have been deployed or not yet deployed by the Soviet Union, and 926 shorter-range missiles. The United States is eliminating 689 intermediate-range missiles and 170 shorter-range missiles. Although this treaty by itself does not resolve the nuclear problem, insofar as only about 5 percent of nuclear arsenals will be cut as a result, it is a most important step in the right and significant direction.

[Agayants] Sometimes there emerge idle discussions about us having agreed under pressure by the Americans to a compromise which was not to our advantage and they start guessing which country won or lost from the ratification of the INF Treaty in Moscow; these are senseless and dishonorable exercises in the spirit of the past stereotypes. The interests of international security, the interests of the Soviet and American peoples have won.

[Andrianov] It is indisputable that our country agreed to most significant concessions and compromises in order for the first step in disarmament to become a reality. But, recalling this, one must not forget another thing: It was much more difficult for the ruling quarters of the United States and the outgoing administration of Ronald Reagan to display flexibility and realism in conditions whereby the hawks of the military-industrial complex have exerted and are exerting endless pressure on their policies and on public opinion in the United States.

[Charikov] The Soviet Union proceeds from the fact that one must not slacken the pace of movement toward a nuclear-free, secure world. The question of a 50-percent reduction in the strategic arsenals of the USSR and the United States, with the ABM Treaty maintained, and likewise the cessation of nuclear tests and transition to the process of reduction in armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, now stands on the agenda alongside prohibition of chemical weapons.

[Agayants] As you recall, exactly this was discussed at the meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan which took place this year in our capital city 29 May-2 June. In the course of the summit level talks in Moscow, it was stressed that the dialogue which has been arranged between the USSR and the United States is laying the foundation for a realistic approach to the problems of consolidating stability in the world, and of reducing the danger of confrontation. The two sides confirmed the conclusion drawn 3 years ago in Geneva that there can be no winners in nuclear war and that a nuclear war should never be unleashed. The leaders of the two states expressed their determination to avert any war between the Soviet Union and the United States, whether nuclear or conventional, and stated their renunciation of any intention to attain military superiority.

[Andrianov] I recall that it was noted in Moscow at the meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan that, despite all the differences in history, traditions and ideology which exist between our countries, a dialogue will continue between them which is based on realism and oriented toward achievement of concrete results.

[Charikov] In this respect, the fact that George Bush, the new United States President, the 41st, confirmed immediately upon the end of the elections and then again during the meeting with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on 7 December on Governor's Island in New York that his administration intends to implement continuity of the former government's policy in matters of Soviet-American relations, and that the Washington-Moscow dialogue at all levels, including summit level, will continue, may be seen as a good sign of the outgoing year of 1988.

[Agayants] That, of course, is one of the most important outcomes of the outgoing year. I say this, meaning stability and permanency in the development of the policy of trust, of achievement of agreements, although naturally one should not by any means become euphoric and think that it is now all plain sailing. Alas, it is not so. Both life itself and especially grand politics are full of surprises and contradictions. In any case, we will hope for the best, and a good start has been made for this.

[Andrianov] Here, as I understand it, we are talking first of all about the important package of peace initiatives which were advanced in the speech of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to the delegates of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly.

[Agayants] Yes, I mean precisely that. After all, that speech is still being studied and commented on today in many countries of the world with unwaning interest, one can say without any exaggeration.

[Andrianov] This is only natural. For on 7 December at UN headquarters there sounded a persistent and passionate call for joint quests for ways to achieve the supremacy of universal ideas over an innumerable multitude of centrifugal forces, a call for the preservation of the vitality of our civilization.

[Charikov] I am sure that the mass media and political, state, and public figures will keep returning to the Soviet leader's speech, in which, from the positions of the new political philosophy, a realistic vision of the problems and laws of the contemporary world is presented in a clear and well-argumented way, where the principles for international relations at the threshhold of the 21st century are formulated.

[Agayants] The broad positive response throughout the world to the innovative Soviet proposals is well known. There are the most diverse reports about that even today. One could cite these responses literally ad infinitum. But I limit myself to just one which is extremely characteristic in my view, from the English newspaper INDEPENDENT. Peter Jenkins, the author of an article published therein, writes: As a result of Mikhail Gorbachev's UN speech, the view of the West on world politics has turned out to be outmoded the morning after the Soviet leader's triumphal speech NATO was expressed. The contrast between the two was sharp and painful. It transpired that the figures of the North Atlantic bloc cannot propose anything constructive. The conviction and genuine aspiration to put the plan for creating an alternative political structure, for bringing the restructuring out onto the international arena altogether, into effect make Gorbachev's UN speech so notable. It is underpinned by the scale and character of reductions by the Soviet Union in armed forces, which he announced.

I beg your pardon for such a long quotation, but it is really worth a lot.

[Andrianov] Undoubtedly. Evaluating the new Soviet peace proposals colossal influence on world public opinion, the analyst of the prominent U.S. newspaper THE WALL STREET JOURNAL concludes in his turn: Gorbachev's speech has become The epitaph for a 40-year period which might be called a condition of cold war. It will be difficult from now on to present the Soviet Union as an enemy which is ready to invade Western Europe

[Charikov] These important positive shifts in people's awareness—there is an abundance of examples as we can see, including people who are far from liking us—are occurring today before our eyes. This, too, is an important outcome of the past year.

[Agayants] We are talking about the immense impression which Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's speech, given from the rostrum of the 43d UN General Assembly session, has had on the entire world community. The Soviet leader, among other things, gave what I consider a very capacious formula which reveals the uniqueness of this moment in history. He said we have approached a frontier when disordered spontaneity leads one into a blind alley, when the world community has to learn to shape and direct processes in such a way as to preserve civilization, and to make it more secure for all and more favorable for normal life.

[Andrianov] Indeed, the Soviet Government sees opportunities to promote such changes in world politics and in the interrelations between states, which would make it possible to go from confrontation and discord to joint actions directed at the development of mutual understanding and cooperation to solve mankind's general tasks.

[Charikov] I would stress here that it not only sees these opportunities but is by its specific deeds showing how they can be implemented completely realistically. During our discussion today we have given examples in this respect. Therefore I think there is no need to be repetitive.

[Agayants] That is of course so, but it is best to cite a fresh example, and I think the official visit to Japan by Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, may serve as such this week. I would remind you that he took part in 2 days of Soviet-Japanese consultations.

[Andrianov] It is perhaps apt here to emphasize the present visit to Japan by Comrade Shevardnadze is the third foreign ministerial meeting in the cycle of the Soviet-Japanese dialogue, which began about 3 years ago, in January 1986. Naturally there is no secret that for our part marked attention is being paid to this dialogue. The reason for this is fully understandable. After all, relations between the Soviet Union and Japan should be considered on a broader basis than within the framework of bilateral links, since they are indisputably of considerable importance for the entire situation in the Asian-Pacific Region.

[Charikov] This incidentally was pointed out by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev when he spoke in Krasnoyarsk. Referring to his meetings and correspondence with prominent Japanese politicians he noted that these meetings and contacts had made it possible to see better both the problems and the opportunities on the path to overcoming stagnation in bilateral relations.

[Agayants] Indeed, Japan's position in this sphere looks stagnant, as it were, particularly against the background of the present international situation, which is developing very dynamically. Is the state of Soviet- Japanese relations in accord with this tendency?

[Andrianov] I do not think there is need to spend a long time explaining that in their present form the relations between the Soviet Union and Japan cannot fully answer either the interests of our countries themselves or the broader interests of the world. This situation hardly accords with the potential of our countries and their place in international politics. But will two such major neighboring powers finally be able to cast aside the shroud of alientation which has arisen between them?

[Charikov] Well I think that we should not dramatize the situation, but at the same time it is necessary to see the complexities the past has left us and energetically seek means to overcome them. In short it is necessary to make a sensible assessment of the real state of affairs and approach it with the yardstick of the new political thinking. The old views will not help matters here.

[Agayants] Naturally, during the exchange of views on the prospects for the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two countries Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, touched upon the so-called territorial issue and gave the Japanese interpretation of its historical aspects.

[Andrianov] Comrade Shevardnadze expounded the position of the Soviet Union on this matter. He advocated that the complexities and differences be eliminated by means of a calm, amicable, and objective discussion with the consideration of all the circumstances. All this was reflected in the joint Soviet-Japanese communique, which says that each of the sides set out its understanding of the historical and political aspects connected with the elimination of the existing difficulties in bilateral relations. This formula of words was, as you are aware, chosen by the participants themselves in the talks.

[Agayants] It is indisputable that much has to be done to improve and stabilize Soviet-Japanese relations and a solution has to be found to some questions of a bilateral character. But after all, conditions for stable relations are formed above all in minds and attitudes, and the talks in Tokyo showed that there are grounds for optimism in this area.

[Charikov] The significance of these talks lies in my view above all in the fact that they provided an affirmative answer to one very important fundamental question.

The Japanese and the Soviet sides understand that their interrelations must not drop out of the flow of historical development and must not lag behind the foremost trends in world politics.

[Andrianov] Comrade Shevardnadze confirmed the Soviet Union's readiness to improve relations with Japan and to conduct an active political dialogue with it on questions relating to world politics, regional problems, and bilateral matters. We realize that two such states need not merely have normal relations but also interact closely in the international arena. In proposing that our dialogue be developed, we proceed from the view that Japan's colossal and authoritative energy should definitely be included in the network of regional and global political detente.

[Charikov] Boris Vasilyevich, I believe these considerations have been set out in the joint Soviet-Japanese communique, which says: The unanimous view was expressed that progressive development of relations between the two countries accords not only with their own interests but also with the cause of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the whole world.

[Agayants] In general it may be claimed that the step taken in Tokyo this week was a very important one which opens up great prospects for a Soviet-Japanese political dialogue and the practical development of our relations. As you know, the participants in the consultative meeting reached a unified view on the useful nature of a further development of contacts between politicians of the two countries including at a high level. Moreover, agreement was reached for ministers to begin to actively work on questions connected with a Soviet-Japanese summit meeting.

[Andrianov] This agreement is extremely important for the further development of our relations with Japan. Much remains to be done, of course, to raise them to the level of genuine good-neighborliness, but the main thing, I think, is to strive to attain this goal. As Takeshita, the Japanese prime minister, said during his meeting with our foreign minister, there are no insoluble problems when there is a wish to solve them.

And it must be assumed that when Comrade Shevardnadze addressed his press conference in Tokyo it was not fortuitous that he recalled what had been said by the head of the Japanese Government, noting that he had very much liked this thought. The sense of this assessment is, I think, clear—namely, we also consider this to be so.

[Charikov] But in this connection one cannot fail to mention the fact that as a result of the talks which took place in Tokyo a mechanism is being set up to consider on a permanent footing—and that is very important—the question of a peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Japan. Within its framework there will be a discussion of the whole complex of problems of concern to each of the two sides. This work is by no means simple. On the contrary, it is very complex and difficult but at the same time it is very responsible and extremely essential. Both sides proceed on the basis that serious and intensive work directed at attaining results will be conducted in this area; and this is encouraging.

[Agayants] The results of Comrade Shevardnadze's visit have evoked a great response in Japan and also outside that country, naturally. Citing the view of Japanese officials, the British DAILY TELEGRAPH for instance, noted that the USSR foreign minister had melted the permanent frost in relations between the two countries and created a more favorable atmosphere.

[Andrianov] The Japanese TOKYO SHIMBUN shares the same thought. It considers that at the present time the atmosphere of Japanese-Soviet relations is improving, and even greater efforts are required from both sides for its further development.

[Agayants] Yes, indeed. The results of the Soviet-Japanese talks are significant and evoke a feeling of complete satisfaction, above all because they certainly mean victory for a sensible and realistic policy which takes account of the balance of interests of the two countries and of our other partners. As a result, a level of mutual understanding has been achieved which makes it possible to speak about the start of a fresh chapter in Soviet-Japanese relations; and its pages need to be filled by joint efforts directed towards this noble cause.

Time is up for our program. Thank you, comrades, for your attention. All the best to you!

Sino-Indian Summit Outcome Welcomed

PM2312163788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 88 First Edition p 7

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov "Viewpoint": "Neighbors' Handshake"]

[Text] Two neighboring Asian powers, the two most heavily populated states in the world, have resumed the summit-level political dialogue that was interrupted all of 34 years ago. This week's official visit to China by the Indian Government head certainly overspilled bilateral relations in terms of its significance and was an important event for Asia and the whole world.

I witnessed the enthusiastic reception the inhabitants of the Chinese capital gave to the founder of independent India, Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1954. After India had cast off the colonial yoke and the revolution had been victorious in China the two countries' peoples regarded one another with feelings of sincere friendship and affection. It was in those years that Beijing and Delhi jointly formulated the five principles of peaceful coexistence ("pancha shila"). They not only formed the basis of bilateral relations, but in many ways helped young liberated states of various political orientations to unite in the ranks of the Nonaligned Movement.

Unfortunately, the disputes inherited from the colonial past over a border that had never been officially marked out led to an armed clash between China and India in 1962. It froze all bilateral contacts for a long time. This week's official visit to China by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi puts the two great powers back on the path of forward development.

The very fact that Delhi and Beijing have at last resumed their summit dialogue is a reflection of positive new trends in international relations. The series of Soviet-American summits, which have marked a move away from confrontation and toward detente and created favorable prerequisites for the settlement of many regional conflicts, the great effectiveness of Indian-Soviet collaboration on the basis of the Delhi declaration, and the positive changes in Soviet-Chinese relations, moving toward complete normalization—these gratifying signs of the times are preventing the two peoples, who make up one-third of the world's population, from tolerating the prolonged unfriendliness.

Beijing and Delhi are equally interested in strengthening peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. And the most real practical contribution they can make to this is by restoring good-neighborliness. Good relations among major states such as China, India, and the USSR, M.S. Gorbachev noted in Krasnoyarsk, is exceedingly important to the future of Asia and to world progress in general.

Of course, the disputes which still cast a shadow on Sino-Indian relations cannot be solved at a stroke. Both Delhi and Beijing believed that the purpose of these talks was to restore mutual trust and create a favorable atmosphere for the subsequent examination of unresolved questions. The most difficult of them concerns the border. The eight rounds of talks that have been held since 1981 have not yet borne fruit. But the summit confirmed that peace and cooperation must prevail in the border areas until an agreement is reached.

The idea of a mixed commission and the accord on regular consultations between the two countries' foreign ministers on the border problem are small, but gratifying steps forward. It is important that neither side regards the settlement of the border problem—and it could take time—as a prior condition for the development of bilateral relations in other spheres. During Rajiv Gandhi's stay in Beijing agreements were signed between India and China on an air service, on scientific-technical cooperation, and on cultural links.

The official visit to China by the Indian government head was a fruitful one. And one hopes that the two neighboring Asian powers, who gave mankind the "pancha shila" principles, will be guided by their spirit and letter in relations with one another.

United States & Canada

Bessmertnykh, U.S. Envoy Discuss Mediterranean

LD2412064388 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0630 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, 24 Dec (TASS)—Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, invited Jack Matlock, U.S. ambassador to Moscow, for a talk on Friday. During the talks the current situation in certain regions, including the southern Mediterranean, was discussed.

Yakovlev Receives U.S. Ambassador Matlock

LD2612162388 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1611 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, 26 Dec (TASS)—Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today received Jack Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR, at the latter's request. In the conversation that took place there was a discussion of the state of and prospects for Soviet-U.S. relations and of some questions of international life.

Fitzwater Interviewed on Gorbachev UN Speech

LD2612104988 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Washington December 26 TASS—By TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev:

"We would hope that Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations General Assembly is historic in the sense of pointing the way towards long-term change in our relationship". This was stated by Marlin Fitzwater, assistant to the U.S. President for press relations.

"And in that sense", he told a TASS correspondent, "it also introduced many of the general secretary's thoughts and his thinking to the American people for the first time. Even though the American people have watched the summits and they've seen snippets on television of the meetings and seen reports, this was one of the first opportunities to hear the general secretary in a full-length speech. And so, in that sense, we do think his speech is historic and ground- breaking, and, hopefully, it is the candle that will light our relations for years to come".

Touching on the present state of Soviet-American relations Marlin Fitzwater noted that the five Soviet-American summit meetings held in recent years laid the basis for the solution of any difficult problem. "These summits, coupled with the apparent changes in the Soviet Union, have totally changed, we believe, the way that America approaches its problems with the Soviet Union", the White House spokesman said. "And that change is while we are still sceptical because of the inherent differences in our societies and our political beliefs, we know that a constructive dialogue can be undertaken that is based on realism. We know that we can discuss difficult problems openly and hit them head on and that we can argue without having lasting reverberations from it."

"We are about to change presidents. Therefore, there has been analysis on each of the points raised by the general secretary", continued Marlin Fitzwater, who will remain assistant to the president for press relations in the Bush administration. "But we are reluctant to usurp the prerogative of the next administration who may want to give analysis to all these points as well. And certainly, the next administration will be reviewing the speech, the relationship between the two countries, the status of arms control, the status of military force postures and many of the other issues that the general secretary raised."

"We have stated our position on may of these issues already, however. On the troop cuts, of course, we welcome the reduction in tanks. We are concerned about what happens to those tanks, what happens to the hardware. Some of the other matters that are more technical are still being analysed", Marlin Fitzwater said.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Asian Policy

LD2712003988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Andrianov commentary]

[Text] It has been reported from Washington that Marlin Fitzwater, U.S. presidential press secretary, dealt with the present state of American-Soviet relations in a TASS interview. The White House spokesman noted that the meetings between the leaders of the two countries have radically altered the United States' approach to problems in relations with the Soviet Union. We have realized, he said, that it is possible to conduct a constructive dialogue based on realism.

A Mayak commentary with Boris Andrianov at the microphone:

It is, of course, gratifying that a representative of the Washington administration speaks of the possibility of a realistic approach to relations with our country, the more so since for some time now Washington has been beginning to display realism, to some extent, on a global scale. But it is doing so only partially, and by no means fully, as is confirmed by the fact that the United States is making a point of refusing to discuss the problems of lowering the level of military confrontation in Asia and the Pacific. And this is having a certain effect on the countries of Asia. At any event, Soviet proposals directed toward reducing the danger of war in that vast zone have not yet become, for them, a topic for discussion. As a result, a situation is developing which is strange to say the least. It is quite obvious that mutual relations between the countries of the Asia and Pacific region are being normalized, and moreover this is to a considerable extent a consequence of the fact that Soviet-U.S. relations have begun to improve. The direct link between these processes is beyond dispute, making it all the more surprising—to say the least—that Washington should take such an openly negative stand on the question of cooperating with the Soviet Union in strengthening security in Asia and the Pacific.

Statements by certain trans-Atlantic figures do, however, throw some light on the matter. They boil down to the fact that the United States has a very peculiar view of the future of the Asian states; regarding them not as sovereign members of the international community, but merely as countries that must be American allies. It is this approach that presumably underlies the unwillingness of the U.S. Administration to allow the countries of Asia and the Pacific to become equal participants in the process of strengthening security in that zone. In their desire to block such events, the United States is bringing their political and economic influence to bear, in order to prevent U.S. allies form taking the path of detente in the region. And so far, they have succeeded in blocking any solution to the security problem there. This clearly runs counter to the progressive trends in world politics.

Why, then, does Washington not want to display realism in its actions in the region of Asia and the Pacific? One gets the impression that the U.S. strategists are quite unable to shake off their habitual stereotypes, because they do not want to give up the considerable military superiority that they have there. So when the U.S. presidential aide Marlin Fitzwater says the Washington administration has understood that it is possible to carry on a constructive dialogue with the Soviet Union, based on realism, one is encouraged to hope that that realism will also be fully shown with regard to the vital problems of Asia and the Pacific.

Gorbachev Condolences Over U.S. Plane Crash

LD2212174888 Moscow TASS in English
1726 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 22 TASS—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sent a telegram of condolences to U.S. President Ronald Reagan over the crash of a U.S. airliner entailing loss of life.

"We deeply share the grief and suffering of those who lost their near and dear ones. Mr. President, please accept our condolences and convey sincere sympathies to the bereaved families," the telegram said.

TASS Cites Reagan Remarks on Armenian Quake

LD2412221288 Moscow TASS in English
2147 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Washington December 25 TASS—U.S. President Ronald Reagan said in his regular radio address on Saturday that he knew that all Americans shared his grief for those who suffered in the earthquake in Armenia.

"We have been witness to the breathtaking bravery of the people of Leninakan and Spitak as they ready themselves for the task of going on," the President noted. Reagan positively assessed the humanitarian aid rendered to the quake victims by the USA and other countries.

Kamentsev Receives Canadian Industrialist

PM2312120688 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Official Announcements"]

[Text] On 20 December V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received A. Reykhman, president of the Canadian company Olympia and York.

Northeast Asia

Shevardnadze Concludes Visit to DRPK

Meets With Kim Il-song

LD2312194088 Moscow TASS in English
1921 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR who is staying here on a working visit at the invitation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), met on Friday with Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party (KWP) and president of the DPRK.

Kim Chong-il, a member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and a secretary of the KWP Central Committee, took part in the meeting.

Eduard Shevardnadze handed Kim Il-song a personal letter from Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Kim Il-song conveyed greetings and good wishes to Mikhail Gorbachev and the entire Soviet leadership. On behalf of the Korean people he then expressed profoundest sympathies over the unexpected natural calamity which has hit Armenia.

The interlocutors exchanged information about the progress of efforts to build socialist societies in the two countries and on characteristic current processes in the USSR and the DPRK in political, economic and other fields.

Kim Il-song said that people in this country have been following with great attention the drive to update every aspect of life in Soviet society and wish it complete success.

Eduard Shevardnadze briefed Kim Il-song on the Soviet leadership's views on the world situation, trends in international relations and the Soviet Union's policy of scaling down tension and confrontation and creating a comprehensive system for international security based on new political thinking.

Kim Il-song spoke very highly of the Soviet Union's latest initiatives set forth by Mikhail Gorbachev in his U.N. address and described them as a fine New Year gift for the peoples of the world.

The sides paid special attention to the situation in Asia and in the Korean peninsula. They noted with satisfaction that the program for security and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, which was formulated by the Soviet leader in Vladivostok and Krasnoyarsk, as well as proposals by the DPRK and other socialist nations have found understanding and support in the region and furnish a basis for developing broad-based political dialogue.

Kim Il-song spoke about the Korean leadership's efforts towards the reunification of the country and the creation of a democratic confederative republic of Korea

Note was taken of favorable changes in the international climate, making for serious dialogue between the two parts of Korea.

Eduard Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union has a high opinion and backs the DPRK's proposals for a peaceful and democratic reunification of the country without outside interference, for easing tension in the peninsula and reducing military confrontation. The DPRK firmly maintains the initiative in these issues, as evidenced by its peace program of November 7, 1988.

The issues of bilateral relations between the USSR and the DPRK were examined concretely. The mutual desire was expressed to be active in this respect and increase ties and contacts.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Kim Il-song agreed that the frank, comradely and businesslike discussion of all issues, which was held in a spirit of mutual understanding, will help to continue building fraternal Soviet-Korean relations on a firm foundation.

The meeting passed in a cordial atmosphere and was described by both sides as very useful and essential.

Kim Yong-nam, a member of the Political Bureau of the KWP Central Committee, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister of the DPRK, sat in on the meeting.

Confers With Kim Yong-nam

LD2312194288 Moscow TASS in English 1934 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, held talks at the Mansudae Palace of Congresses here with Kim Yong-nam, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers Party, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The talks analyzed the state of Soviet-Korean relations in various fields and prospects for their development, key issues of world politics and the situation in different regions.

The sides expressed a positive view of growing cooperation between the two countries in international affairs and their more effective activities at multilateral forums. An important role in this belongs to the well-adjusted system of consultations between officials from the foreign ministries.

The Soviet Union and the DPRK have been cooperating especially closely in promoting the idea of a comprehensive system for international security and in issues of disarmament and the lowering of military confrontation levels.

Work towards settling regional conflicts has become an important aspect of joint efforts.

After expressing satisfaction with the concurrence of their positions of principle on problems in Asia and the Pacific, the two ministers pointed out that greater coordination should be achieved in this respect and opinions should be exchanged regularly on the situation in the region and on contacts with other countries located there.

The Korean side welcomed the fact that the Soviet Union and China have firmly embarked on the path of normalizing their relations which are reaching a fundamentally new level.

A joint communique was issued after the talks and will be published in the press.

Also on Friday Shevardnadze laid floral garlands at the Revolutionaries' Cemetery on Mount Taesongsan, at the liberation monument erected in Pyongyang in honor of Soviet Army troops who fell fighting for Korea's liberation and to a monument to Chinese volunteers.

'Complete Mutual Understanding'

PM2312204588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "E.A. Shevardnadze's stay in the DPRK"]

[Excerpt] Pyongyang,23 Dec—[Passage omitted] On 23 Dec, talks took place between E.A. Shevardnadze and Kim Yong-nam.

At the talks which passed off in an atmosphere of traditional friendship and complete mutual understanding, a detailed exchange of opinions took place on ways to further expand and strengthen Soviet-Korean relations, and considerable attention was paid to the discussion of the situation in the Far East and Asia as a whole. [passage omitted].

Shevardnadze Speaks at Reception

LD2312210388 Moscow TASS in English 2038 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 TASS—A great political importance that the Soviet leadership attaches to contacts and close interaction with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was confirmed today in a speech that Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and USSR foreign minister, delivered at a reception held here by the DPRK Government in his honour. Shevardnadze said that he had a very important conversation with Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party and president of the DPRK, and handed over to him a personal message from Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The message continues an intensive dialogue held by the two countries at the summit level.

Shevardnadze noted that life itself sets new tasks and outlines new goals in relations between the USSR and the DPRK. "This necessitates the upgrading of the system and forms of our cooperation along the party and state lines", he said. The speaker noted the importance of enhancing the efficiency of bilateral trade and economic ties, transition to their new forms, widening of cultural exchanges and direct people to people contacts.

"There is satisfaction in the Soviet Union that the USSR and the DPRK interact in the main thing—the struggle for consolidation of peace and stability, for real disarmament," Shevardnadze said. "We are grateful to our friends for the support for initiatives and practical steps our country makes in the international arena. The Soviet leadership vigorously implements the principles of new thinking in the area of foreign policy, meeting the interests of all socialist countries, serving the cause of peace. The Soviet concept of renewal and internationalisation of international relations is based on an objective scientific assessment of realities of the present inter-dependent world. Recognition of the right of all peoples to the freedom of choice, the awareness of the need to arrest confrontation and the arms race in order to save the interests of the civilisation is central to new thinking".

"We are convinced that a nuclear war or other war, violence or terror cannot and must not be means to achieving political, economic, ideological or any other ends," Shevardnadze said.

Shevardnadze noted that a new approach to international affairs brings positive results, that the situation is changing for the better in all regions where conflict situations exist, that new prospects open in consolidation of security and development of cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. He said the USSR would like to believe that the normalisation of relations and establishment of cooperation between the USSR and the PRC will have a beneficial effect on the situation in Asia. "The development of relations among all countries of the region meets the interests of peace and stability, promotes the consolidation of universal security", he said.

Shevardnadze confirmed the Soviet Union's support for peaceful unification of Korea, for the proposals of the DPRK for a drastic lowering of the military- political tension in Korea, for imparting a nuclear weapon-free status to the peninsula. "We urge the U.S. side to withdraw its troops and armaments from the Korean peninsula. This would create the necessary conditions for the Korean people resolving its problems on its own without outside interference, on a peaceful democratic basis".

"We are convinced that a constructive approach to the settlement in the Korean peninsula on the basis of soberly taking into account the existing realities, on the principles of national reconciliation and the balance of interests creates new opportunities for ensuring peace and stability". Shevardnadze said. "The implementation of the DPRK's idea of talks at different levels would be an important event in the solution of the peninsula's problems. Many organisational matters are yet have to be decided, considerable obstacles are to be overcome, but it will be difficult to arrest the advance to rapprochement."

Shevardnadze expressed the confidence that the implementation of Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals made in Krasnoyarsk not to deploy additional nuclear armaments in the Asia-Pacific region, to freeze and reduce proportionately the levels of naval and air forces in the regions adjoining the USSR, China, Japan and the Korean peninsula would serve the purposes of unification. "It is time everybody understood that the military presence and military bases in territories of others will not remain for long", he said.

Shevardnadze noted that the times dictate the need for the renewal of relations among fraternal socialist countries to make them more dynamic, open and balanced. "We are confident that this is in the interest of all fraternal countries, in the interests of our advance", he said.

The speaker made the assurances that the "Soviet Communist Party, the Soviet Government, the entire Soviet people will continue doing everything to consolidate and expand traditional relations of fraternal friendship with the Korean people, the Korean Workers' Party, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea".

Shevardnadze, Kim Yong-nam Speeches

LD2312231288 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1945 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang, 23 Dec (TASS) The DPRK Government gave a reception this evening in honor of E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, who is here on a working visit.

Welcoming the Soviet guest, Kim Yong-nam, vice premier of the Administration Council and DPRK foreign minister, said in part: We are convinced that your visit, Comrade Minister, will be an important factor in deepening the relations of cooperation and strengthening the friendship and solidarity between our two countries, the DPRK and the USSR. The meeting with Comrade Kim Il-song which has just taken place, and the useful exchange of opinions in a spirit of frankness and in a comradely atmosphere are a lively expression of the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation which exist between our two countries.

Today, vigorous activity is unfolding in the international arena, directed against war and for peace, and our planet is moving step by step toward detente and peace.

We value the efforts by the USSR to ease the international situation and for peace and security in the Asia and Pacific region and throughout the world. M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, recently announced a unilateral reduction of the numerical strength of the USSR Armed Forces by 500,000. This clearly demonstrates the USSR's sincere approach to peace.

Today the U.S. imperialists, going against the tendency toward detente, are on the one hand trying to turn the region of Asia into a arena for the nuclear arms race, and on the other, by intensifying their military compact with the Japanese reactionaries, making the situation in this region still more alarming. In implementing their Asia-Pacific strategy, the United States is attaching especially great importance to the Korean peninsula. They are trying to keep South Korea forever as their nuclear outpost, continuing the buildup of their Armed Forces in the region, and stepping up their adventurist military maneuvers against the DPRK. The continuing division of Korea will only lead to a worsening of tension and to an increase in the danger of a nuclear war.

We are utterly sincere in trying to defuse the situation on the Korean peninsula and create a favorable situation for the reunification of the country. We have recently put forward a comprehensive peace proposal which would ensure a lasting peace in Korea and hasten the peaceful reunification of the country.

This proposal enjoys the wide support of the USSR and of the whole world, because peace on the Korean peninsula is directly linked with peace in Asia and the Pacific. Our people, with all their hearts, wish the fraternal Soviet people, under the leadership of the CPSU headed by M.S. Gorbachev, new progress in accelerating the process of restructuring and strengthening the country's might. At present in our country, the whole party and the whole people, warmly supporting the program tasks outlined by Comrade Kim Il-song in his speech at the solemn session devoted to the 40th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, are waging an active struggle for the full victory of socialism and the reunification of our homeland.

In the coming new year, too, we will, together with our Soviet comrades, make every effort to deepen and develop the traditional Korean-Soviet friendship in the spirit of the accords reached between the leaders of the DPRK and USSR, Kim Yong-nam said in conclusion.

Replying, E.A. Shevardnadze said: The Soviet leadership attaches great political significance to contacts between our countries and to close cooperation between them. We have just had a very important conversation with Comrade Kim Il-song, to whom we conveyed a personal message from M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. This message continues to intensive dialogue which is being conducted by us at summit level. It was successfuly initiated at the meeting between Comrades M.S. Gorbachev and Kim Il-song in Moscow 2 years ago. At that time fundamental accords were reached about the renewal and enrichment of bilateral contacts, and guidelines were designated for the long term. Now these accords are being consistently implemented. I think that our current visit can also be considered an element in the realization of the mutual understanding which was reached then.

We speak with pride of our friendship, but, as a Korean proverb says, even when you love, you note faults. Life itself sets new tasks in our relations, and outlines new goals. This means that we must improve the sytem and forms of our cooperation along both the party and the state lines. Both sides need to do much to increase the efficiency of our trade and economic ties. The question of changing to new forms in this, say, through cooperation between industrial enterprises in the Soviet Far East and the provinces of the DPRK is overdue.

It will be possible to move ahead if we achieve the tasks which were discussed during the meeting between Kim Il-song and leaders of oblasts and krays of the Far

Eastern region of the USSR. The expansion of cultural exchanges and of direct contacts between people is on the agenda. Such an exchange is a vitally needed for good neighborliness.

We in the USSR are satisfied that the USSR and the DPRK are acting together in the most important thing—in the struggle to strengthen peace and stability, and for real disarmament. We are grateful to our friends for supporting the initiatives and practical moves which our country is advancing on the international arena. The Soviet leadership is actively implementing the principles of the new thinking in the sphere of foreign policy, principles which correspond to the interests of all the countries of socialism, and to the cause of peace.

The Soviet concept of the renewal and internationalization of international relations is based on an objective, scientific evaluation of the realities of the contemporary, interdependent world. The core of the new thinking is recognition of the right of all peoples to freedom of choice, and understanding of the need to stop the confrontation and the arms race in the interests of saving civilization. M.S. Gorbachev conveyed this idea most clearly in his speech at the 43d session of the UN general Assembly. We are convinced that nuclear or any other war, and violence or terror cannot and must not be means of attaining political, economic, ideological, or any other goals.

And it is indeed socialism, stemming from the views of the progress of the historical process that are inherent in it, that must defend the principle of the prevention of the use of force as a form of rational policy. The struggle of the Korean people for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from the Korean peninsula, for the lowering of tension here and for the solution of existing problems by peaceful means embodies this principle.

The new approach to international affairs is yielding positive results. The Soviet-American treaty on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles has gone into effect and is being implemented. The agreement on a political settlement in Afghanistan has assisted this considerably. The process of national reconciliation in Cambodia is gaining strength. The bloody war between Iran and Iraq, which has lasted for many years, has ended. The situation in the southern Africa is drawing close to normalization.

The situation essentially in all regions where conflicts exist is changing for the better.

New prospects are opening up in the matter of strengthening the security and developing cooperation in the Asia and Pacific Ocean region. The Soviet platform of actions, calling for efforts by all states situated here to be united and for the Asian and Pacific Ocean region to be turned into a region of good-neighborliness and mutually advantageous cooperation, which was expounded in Vladivostok and which was given a serious new impetus in Krasnoyarsk, is receiving ever wider international recognition.

We do not wish to oversimplify the situation. We see that in Asia there is a very complex interweaving of problems, interests, and contradictions. This is precisely why a serious search for solutions is required with due consideration for the not inconsiderable political experience that already exists in Asia.

We would like to believe that the normalization of relations and the establishment of cooperation between the USSR and the PRC will have a beneficial influence upon the situation in the region. The development of relations between all states belonging to this region accords with the interests of peace and stability and is conducive to the strengthening of universal security.

I shall mention specially the situation on the Korean peninsula. For more than 4 decades now the Korean people has been split into two parts. This is both its tragedy and an unhealing wound for Asia.

We share the pain of the Korean nation. Throughout all these years the USSR has been and is in favor of the peaceful unification of Korea. In our view, the leadership of the DPRK is acting absolutely correctly in proposing first and foremost that the military and political tension in Korea should be sharply lowered in Korea and that the peninsula should be given a nuclear-free status. The DPRK proposals of 7 November this year are comprehensive and constructive. They are built upon the principle of identical security for both parts of Korea.

And the fact that in the South they are now unable to reject the constructive initiatives by the DPRK as they used to in the past is evidence of the force and the correctness of the ideas of our Korean friends. It is very indicative that in the South they have also been obliged to talk about the necessity of a political dialogue.

The DPRK proposes that the foreign troops situated in the south of the peninsula be withdrawn. This is a rightful and well-founded demand. Moreover in a few days' time it will be 40 years since the last Soviet soldier left Korea.

We call upon the U.S. side to withdraw its troops and arms from the Korean peninsula. This would create the necessary conditions for the Korean people to solve its own problems itself, without intervention from outside and on a peaceful, democratic basis.

Today favorable conditions exist for this as never before, for both in the south of the Korean peninsula and on the other side of the ocean they can no longer ignore the demand of the times and the desire of the Korean people for unification and unity.

We are convinced that a constructive approach to a settlement on the Korean peninsula upon a basis of taking due consideration of the realities that exist here and on the principles of national reconciliation and a balance of interests, creates new possibilities for ensuring peace and stability. Implementation of the idea of talks at various levels which has been expressed by the DPRK would be an important step toward solving the problems on the peninsula. Of course, many organizational questions will have to be solved and considerable obstacles will have to be overcome, but it will be difficult to stop movement toward a rapprochement.

We are confident that the purposes of unification would be served by the implementation of the proposals put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in Krasnoyarsk that additional nuclear weapons should not be sited in Krasnoyarsk and that the levels of naval and air forces in regions adjacent to the USSR, China, Japan, and the Korean peninsula should be frozen and reduced proportionately.

It is time for everyone to understand that a military presence and military bases on other people's territories are things that will not exist for long.

Dear friends, as you know, major processes of renewal are now taking place in the USSR: radical reforms, aimed at the restructuring of all areas of life are being implemented.

The 19th all-union party conference and the extraordinary 12th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet have confirmed the necessity of the course that has been taken by our country.

Time also dictates the necessity for relations between the fraternal socialist countries to be renewed so that they may be distinguished by greater dynamism, openness, and balance. We are sure that this is in the interests of all fraternal countries and in the interests of our movement forward.

I want to assure you that the CPSU, the Soviet Government, and the whole Soviet people will go on doing everything to strengthen and widen the traditional relations of fraternal friendship with the Korean people, the Workers Party of Korea, and the DPRK.

In conclusion, I want to wish the working people of the republic new and great achievements in socialist creativity, in strengthening peace and in their efforts for a peaceful and democratic reunification of their homeland.

Permit me to wish good health and many long years of life to esteemed Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, good health and success to Comrade Kim Yong-nam and also to all Korean friends who are present here.

Long live friendship and cohesion between the CPSU and the Workers' Party of Korea, between the peoples of the USSR and the DPRK.

The reception passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Comments on Visit

LD2412210988 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Shevardnadze's working visit to the DPRK ended today. A final document has been adopted on the outcome of the visit, the text of which is to be published in the press.

Before his flight out of Pyongyang, Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze granted an interview to our special correspondent:

[Correspondent Viktor Lyubovtsev, identified by caption] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, are you satisfied with your visit to the DPRK?

[Shevardnadze] The visit was a very good one. There were interesting talks with friends. There was a very in-depth and important talk with Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, and useful talks with Comrade Kim Yong-nam. We agreed on many things. We also discussed our bilateral relations and global, major international problems. We discussed the state of affairs in the Asia-Pacific region and on the Korean peninsula. We have complete mutual understanding on all the remaining issues. I am very satisfied.

[Lyubovtsev] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, your tour is at an end, a very intensive week's tour of three Asian countries one after another. What can you say about the main results?

[Shevardnadze] I believe the visit to Japan was also very profitable, because there is agreement in principle on several very important issues, including on the start of talks leading to a peace treaty. My visit to the Philippines was very interesting. It was the first visit paid by a Soviet minister to that country. And so, in short, the results are pretty good. I will give a fuller account once I get back.

[Lyubovtsev] Thank you very much.

[Shevardnadze] Don't mention it. [video shows Shevardnadze standing at the top of the steps of the airplane, he gives a clasped hand salute; bows and waves]

Communique on DPRK Visit

PM2712151988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "On the Visit to the DPRK of USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze"]

[Text] E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, paid a working visit to the DPRK 22-24 December 1988 at the invitation of the DPRK Government.

During the visit, E.A. Shevardnadze and those accompanying him were given a hearty [radushnyy] welcome. The USSR foreign minister laid wreaths at the Taesong Revolutionaries' Cemetery, the "Liberation" monument erected in honor of Soviet Army servicemen who died for the freedom and independence of Korea, and the monument to the Chinese People's Volunteers.

The USSR foreign minister was received by Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and president of the DPRK, and had a conversation with him which passed in a friendly atmosphere. E.A. Shevardnadze conveyed to Kim Il-song a personal message and warm greetings from M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Kim Il-song expressed profound appreciation for the message and asked him to convey fraternal greetings and good wishes to M.S. Gorbachev.

Thorough talks took place between E.A. Shevardnadze and Kim Yong-nam, member of the WPK Central Committee Politburo, vice premier of the Administrative Council, and DPRK minister of foreign affairs—in the course of which the sides examined in detail the state of Soviet-Korean relations and their prospects, briefed each other on the progress of socialist building in their respective countries, and exchanged opinions on topical international problems. The talks which passed in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship confirmed the sides' unity of views on all questions under discussion.

Kim Yong-nam asked that sincere sympathy on behalf of the government and people of the DPRK be conveyed to the Soviet Government and people in connection with the tragic natural disaster in Transcaucasia.

The USSR foreign minister expressed profound gratitude on behalf of the Soviet people and the leadership of the Soviet Union for the sympathy and assistance rendered.

The sides expressed satisfaction that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DPRK, based on principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, are expanding and deepening in the spirit of the accords reached during the meeting between M.S. Gorbachev and Kim Il-song in Moscow in 1986 and in keeping with the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance.

The talks' participants are convinced that the planned visit of M.S. Gorbachev to the DPRK will be a most important landmark in the development of relations between the two countries.

It was noted that the meeting between Kim Il-song and representatives of central organs and leading officials of the USSR Far East regions in Khabarovsk in July 1988 was of key importance for the further development of the economic ties between the two countries.

E.A. Shevardnadze described how Soviet working people are implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th all-union party conference, carrying out restructuring in all spheres of the Soviet society's life, and implementing a reform of the economic and political system. The Korean side expressed its support for the CPSU's line aimed at accelerating socioeconomic development and deepening the process of restructuring and it wished the Soviet people new achievements in this work.

Kim Yong-nam briefed the Soviet side on the Korean people's efforts in implementing the decisions of the Sixth WPK Congress and waging a vigorous struggle for the creation of a solid material and technical base for the complete victory of socialism, a radical improvement of the people's living standards, and achieving an independent peaceful unification [obyedineniye] of their motherland.

The USSR foreign minister stated that Soviet people sincerely rejoice at the successes achieved by the Korean people under the leadership of the WPK in the implementation of the three revolutions—ideological, technical, and cultural—and wish them even greater progress in the struggle for the acceleration of socialist building.

Both sides expressed confidence that the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students which is to be held in Pyongyang in 1989 will give a powerful boost to the strengthening of friendly ties between young people from all countries and reinforce their efforts in the struggle for a world without wars and weapons.

During the exchange of opinions on topical international problems, the sides noted that as a result of the tireless efforts of the socialist countries, other peace-loving states, and all progressive forces; positive changes have emerged in international political life.

The Korean side expressed a high appraisal and support for the intiatives of the Soviet Union aimed at the creation of a comprehensive system of international security, the creation of a nuclear-free and nonviolent world, forestalling a militarization of space, and the complete elimination of all types of nuclear and chemical weapons, stressing especially the great importance of the new proposals set forth in M.S. Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations 7 December 1988 for reducing international tension and achieving universal disarmament.

At the talks, special attention was paid to the situation on the Korean peninsula. The ministers emphasized the great importance for the cause of peace and security in Asia and the Pacific region of a relaxation of tension on the peninsula and the solution of the problem of the peaceful unification of Korea.

The Soviet side expressed full support for the proposal put forward by Kim Il-song at the Sixth WPK Congress that a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo be founded, and also for the proposals to convene a joint North-South [Korean] conference, to hold tripartite talks and military-political North-South high-level talks, transform the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone of peace, and all other initiatives of the DPRK aimed at an independent peaceful unification of Korea. Solidarity was expressed with the vigorous efforts undertaken by the DPRK with a view to concluding a peace agreement with the United States, signing a nonaggression declaration between North and South, and achieving the reunification [vossoyedineniye] of the country on the basis of a North-South dialogue.

The Soviet side believes that the four principles for ensuring peace in Korea and the comprehensive peace initiatives put forward at the 7 November 1988 joint session of the Central People's Committee, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, and the DPRK Administrative Council reflect the striving of the Korean people for a unification [obyedineniye] of Korea on the basis of the creation by 1995 of a confederal system. It expressed full support for these initiatives whose implementation would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of peace and security in Asia and the Pacific region and called on the United States and the South Korean authorities to respond to them.

Both sides are convinced that the expanding military—and that includes nuclear—presence of the United States in Asia and the Pacific region, including the South of the Korean Peninsula, and the policy aimed at the establishment of the militarized Washington-Tokyo-Seoul "triangle" are not in keeping with the interests of the countries of the region.

Noting that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from the DPRK, the sides condemned the presence of U.S. forces in South Korea which has lasted for almost half a century, and expressed themselves resolutely for the withdrawal of these forces and their nuclear weapons from Korean territory as soon as possible.

Reaffirming the unchanging character of its principled stance in respect of South Korea, the Soviet side expressed its opposition to the attempts of the United States and the South Korean authorities to perpetuate the split of the country by creating a "two Koreas" situation by means of the so-called "cross recognition" of North and South Korea and their simultaneous or separate admission to the United Nations. The Soviet Union has no intention of officially recognizing South Korea nor of establishing political or diplomatic relations with it.

During the discussion of other topical problems of the present time, the Korean side noted that the proposals put forward in Krasnoyarsk reflect the consistent efforts of the CPSU and the Soviet Government in the interests of ensuring peace and security in Asia and the Pacific basin.

The talks' participants are deeply convinced that the exclusion from international relations of the position-of-strength policy, dismantling of military-political alliances, and withdrawal of foreign troops and military bases from other countries' territories would mark a breakthrough in the peoples' struggle to avert war, end the arms race, and achieve disarmament.

The USSR and the DPRK fully approve of the designation of the southern part of the Pacific Ocean as a nuclear-free zone and believe that nuclear-free zones should be established also in other parts of the world.

Expressing wholehearted approval for the signing of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and the DPRK are firmly convinced that only the strict implementation of these agreements by all parties will make it possible for the Afghan people themselves to resolve their internal problems and determine the direction of the country's further development. They are confident that the earliest possible achievement of national reconciliation in Cambodia on the basis of an accord between all interested parties would be a considerable contribution to the cause of peace not only in Asia but throughout the world.

Rating highly the importance of the Nonaligned Movement in the struggle for a nuclear-free world, strengthening of national independence and autonomy of states and peoples, and the establishment of a new international economic order, the talks' participants expressed themselves in favor of stepping up the antinuclear, antimilitary potential of the nonaligned countries' movement.

The ministers noted the growing role of the United Nations in the solution of the most complex tasks of the present time and favored the further enhancement of the effectiveness of its activities aimed at protecting peace and security and eradicating all manifestations of colonialism, racism, and Zionism on our planet.

The sides believe that the USSR foreign minister's visit to the DPRK has demonstrated the desire to further develop the traditional relations of fraternal Soviet-Korean friendship and that its results will contribute to the further deepening of the cooperation between the USSR and the DPRK in the international arena.

E.A. Shevardnadze invited Kim Yong-nam on behalf of the Soviet Government to pay an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union.

The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Returns to Moscow 24 Dec

LD2412093088 Moscow TASS in English
0914 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, returned to Moscow from Pyongyang on Saturday.

He was welcomed back at the airport by Lev Zaykov, a member of the Politburo and a secretary of the party Central Committee, First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Kovalev and other Soviet officials.

Others welcoming Shevardnadze back included Kim Hi-su, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the USSR, E.C. Cruz, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Philippines in the USSR, and Toshiaki Muto, Japanese ambassador to the USSR.

South Korea Accepts DPRK Proposal for Talks

LD2412141588 Moscow TASS in English
1523 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo December 24 TASS—South Korea has agreed to accept the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on holding a series of high-level talks on political and military aspects of bilateral relations.

A spokesman for the South Korean Government said today that the decision was taken at the government meeting in Seoul, which was attended, in particular, by Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun and Minister of Unification Yi Hong-ku.

The proposal to hold talks was first made by DPRK President Kim Il-song in December 1986. At first South Korea rejected it saying that purely economic contacts between the two sides could be discussed.

The South Korean Government is expected to offer next week to the DPRK to hold a preliminary meeting in January for organizing full-scale talks.

Soviet-Japanese Fishery Talks End 21 Dec

OW2412042988 Moscow in Japanese to Japan
1000 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Listeners, the Soviet-Japan fishery talks concluded in Tokyo on 21 December. In this connection, a Radio Moscow commentator states as follows:

While promoting cooperation with Japan in economy, science, and technology, the Soviet Union has made efforts to strengthen good-neighborly relations on the basis of the principles of mutual benefits and equality and in accordance with the principle of international division of labor. Therefore, it was quite natural that the first postwar treaty concluded between our two countries was precisely in the field of fisheries.

The Soviet Union and Japan are two neighboring fishing powers. For many years, the annual fishing catch of our two countries, including fish and marine products, has reached over 25 percent of the world's total fishing catch. Moreover, our two countries have abundant experiences in deep sea fishing as well as high technology. Our two countries share identical or close positions at various international fishery organizations, and it goes without saying that our positions have greatly influenced the formation of international standards concerning the utilization of biological resources.

At present, the Soviet Union and Japan are engaged in cooperation within the framework of 3 intergovernmental treaties and 7 agreements signed between ministries and agencies. Moreover, many contracts have been signed directly between fishery organizations in the Soviet Far East and various Japanese companies. Just like Japan, the Soviet Union is more interested than other countries in biotechnological utilization of fish and marine products abundant in the northwestern Pacific. Marine life in this area is the common resource of our two countries and we should take good care of it. In other words, we should not only engage in fishing, but also pay attention to promoting better reproduction and artificial incubation. Greater efforts than ever must be exerted to promote joint research on ocean biological resources. In this way, the fishing quota can be accurately determined through scientific measures.

The fishing quota as well as regulations for fishing operations in each other's economic water zones were decided at the Tokyo Soviet-Japan fishery talks. In accordance with an agreement reached between the two sides, the fishing regulations for this year will also be adopted for fiscal 1989. In other words, the fishing catch quota will be 210,000 tons, the same as that of this year. The Japanese side will be permitted to catch another 100,000 tons in Soviet economic waters by paying fishing charges. Japan can procure on the sea up to 100,000 tons of Alaskan pollack that are caught in Soviet economic waters by Soviet ships.

Furthermore, Soviet-Japan joint fishing operations have been successfully conducted. For example, the Japanese side caught about 3,000 tons of cod through joint longline fishing operations this year. Joint operations have also been carried out in fishing for crabs and [word indistinct]. In return for joint operations, the Japanese side has remodeled Soviet fishing boats and provided other services. Through such joint efforts, Soviet fishing crews have learned new techniques in operations and are now capable of developing fishing technology and methods of processing materials so that their products can meet the high demands of the Japanese market. Moreover, such an operational structure can serve as one step toward the establishment of joint ventures. For years, the Soviet Union has responded favorably to the demands of Hokkaido fishermen for permission to harvest kelp in the Soviet economic waters around [words indistinct] islands. Moreover, they were also permitted to engage in collecting sea urchins in this area during the past two years.

While restructuring is being advanced in the Soviet Union, Soviet fishing organizations have been granted extensive rights to expand their direct exchanges with foreign companies or organizations. Such exchanges cover various fields, including academic research on fishing operations, as well as on marine products processing, culturing cod and other marine life, and [words indistinct]. Thus, there has emerged the great possibility of establishing joint ventures. For example, the (?Kiena) joint venture, one of the first Soviet-Japanese joint ventures, has been established on Sakhalin. This is a joint venture established by several organizations on Sakhalin and the Hokuyo Joint Fishing Co. of Japan, and it will engage in culturing salmon at fish farms to be set up in Sakhalin's waters. Salmon cultured at these farms will be supplied not only on the domestic market of the Soviet Union and in Japan, but also on markets of other countries. Moreover, within the joint venture's framework, dozens of Japanese fishing boats will be permitted to catch salmon, and profits from such operations will be used as funds for this joint venture. As all these are new plans, there are still various systemic problems. However, it is believed that all such problems can be solved.

It is of significance that the first Soviet-Japanese joint venture in fisheries was set up for the purpose of resources reproduction. Other Asian nations, including China, have made proposals for the same purpose. As you probably know, Soviet-Chinese fishery relations will be resumed for the first time in 16 years. A long-term agreement has been signed on cooperation in various fields, including reciprocal fishing operations in each other's 200-mile maritime zones and establishment of joint ventures. In this way, the the concept of establishing joint ventures has steadily become widespread and plans have been realized.

It is delightful to note that during overall Soviet-Japanese cooperation, fishing relations particularly have been developing successfully. The Soviet ministries and agencies concerned are now studying over 20 applications for establishing joint fishery ventures submitted by Japanese companies of various sizes.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Further on Shevardnadze Visit to Manila

Aquino Speaks at Luncheon

PM2312153188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 88 Second Edition p 7

[TASS report: "Soviet-Philippine Talks"]

[Excerpts] Manila, 22 Dec—Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo and USSR foreign minister, who is on an official visit here, has met with Philippine President Corazon Aquino. [passage omitted]

President Aquino gave a luncheon in the eminent Soviet guest's honor on the same day at the Malacanang Palace.

Welcoming E.A. Shevardnadze, C. Aquino said:

This is the first visit to the Philippines by a high-ranking Soviet official for a long time. We consider Shevardnadze's visits to the countries of this region a sign that the Soviet Union will now occupy its place among us as an Asian country. This is taking place at a most propitious time, on the threshold of an era of progress which has wide implications for the Pacific region.

The Asian countries have long noted the fact that the geographically biggest part of Soviet territory, with the greatest potential, lies in Asia, particularly as the Soviet Union itself cannot deny the fact that the most powerful driving forces in its history arose in the Asian part of its territory.

We welcome the fact that the USSR is again showing interest in its Asian heritage. We regard the renewal of this interest without concern, notwithstanding the enormous might of the Soviet state, because under the new leadership, its might is being deployed in Asia, not as if on its eastern front, but by way of returning to the roots of its own history; to a region where very great economic and cultural progress will take place. We regard with equal interest the development of the USSR's eastern regions, since progress in any part of the territory of Asia can only help the stability and progress of the region as a whole.

The fact that we welcome the Soviet Union not only as an Asian country, but as the herald of global changes is even more important. The USSR is the bearer of the ideas of restructuring. It urges us Asian countries to restructure the world in accordance with our indigenous ideas but also with due account for the aspirations of all mankind, in the same way as the Soviet people themselves have boldly embarked on restructuring the Soviet Union.

We note the coincidence of our desire for a prosperous and peaceful world with the aims expressed in the new thinking in the USSR.

The aim is to safeguard the world against nuclear destruction by reducing the destructive might and quantity of nuclear weapons.

The aim is to make the world less brutal by reducing the market in conventional arms, equivalent in terms of their destructive force to nuclear weapons—to which the millions of those who have died in recent conventional conflicts would bear witness if only they could speak.

The aim is to create a more stable, safer, and more humane world by means of just laws and civilized relations among states, rather than intimidating it into creating a fragile peaceful order by means of the dreadful prospect of destruction at the hands of the superpowers.

The aim is to create a community of independent states aware of the inevitability of interdependence if those crises which already threaten us are to be avoided.

There is a crisis in the state of the environment, which is becoming increasingly polluted and destroyed by the efforts of a few intent on benefiting the few, contrary to the interests of mankind and to the detriment of its future.

There is a crisis in the international economy, where growth is taking place in those areas which least require it, whereas those areas where there is an acute need to relieve the burden of destitution and poverty are seeing a regression—the Third World cannot withstand the debt burden and the protectionist policy employed against it.

There is an energy crisis, given that the world is exhausting the nonrenewable sources of mankind's material progress that served as the basis of our civilization.

There is a crisis in the awareness of mankind, which has come face to face with the threat of nuclear destruction.

In these areas, the crisis threatens to have the most dreadful consequences; however, we pin our greatest hopes on them. Progress in this area has been particularly marked in recent years—progress of which the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles serves as the prime example. The frank and fruitful talks between the great powers on problems of national security instills still greater hope that the settlement of problems and the search for solutions will proceed in the future, as Mr Gorbachev has said, by dialogue rather than the use of force.

The fact that traditional adversaries can reach such far-reaching agreements on such complex problems as nuclear security fills the rest of us with the hope that the same cooperation and collaboration can be achieved on a global scale in areas of common interest: for example, environmental protection and the elimination of the danger of conventional wars and their destructive might.

The new thinking in the Soviet Union should spur us all to cooperate to establish a new balance—not the old balance of fear, but a balance of interests, which can mark our future if only we summon up the courage and dare to try to think in a new way.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Long live our esteemed guest, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, one of the main architects of the world's new stability!

Long live the Soviet Union, which has opened the Asian wing of its great mansion to the future in the Pacific region!

Long live the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, the idea of restructuring, and the task facing us all of extending our hand to one another across the barriers of national suspicions, ideological blindness, and political ambitions and of refashioning the world in the image of all that people hold in common that is good!

Long live the Soviet Union and friendship! (said in Russian) [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze Departs Manila

LD2212075388 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0740 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Manila, 22 Dec (TASS)—E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, left Manila today. He was seen off at Manila International Airport by Philippine Foreign Minister R. Manglapus and other officials. Among those who saw him off was O.M. Sokolov, USSR ambassador to the Philippines; Alejandro Melchor, Philippine ambassador to the USSR; and employees of Soviet establishments in Manila.

Commentator on Vietnamese Troop Withdrawl

OW2612022888 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Petrov commentary]

[Text] Cambodia is ready to usher in a new year full of hope for a good future. For her, many important events, which may well become new milestones in the efforts to end years of conflicts, have taken place this year. Our station commentator Petrov writes:

Two major events took place simultaneously on 21 December. The first event is that, on that day, the task of withdrawing 50,000 Vietnamese troops from Cambodia that began in mid-1988 came to an end. The second event is the first meeting of the working group for mediating the conflicts was held at the Cambodian Embassy in France. It was learned that representatives of the four parties of Cambodia attended the meeting.

Vietnam's stand on withdrawing its volunteers from Cambodia is already known to all. Withdrawal started as early as 6 years ago and the task is near completion. In 1988 alone, the number of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia was reduced by half. The headquarters of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia was moved back to Vietnam in the summer this year. At the same time, Vietnamese troops were also withdrawn from the Cambodian-Thai borders to avoid military conflicts. After the 50,000 Vietnamese troops are pulled out, the remaining troops are under the command of the Cambodian Headquarters. Listeners, please recall that not long ago, those who oppose the Phnom Penh and Hanoi regime regarded all reports with regard to the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops as propaganda. They said that without Vietnamese troops, Cambodia simply could not exist. By the end of 1988, the situation has changed so much that it will be impossible not to take it seriously. This is particularly true for the Khmer opposition faction who had refused to sit down and talk under the excuse of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. Their stand fell behind to the times. Today it is known for certain that all Vietnamese troops will withdraw by March 1990. The mood among the opposition factions has changed, as has, it seems, those who support the opposition factions. In any case, the talks on mediating the Cambodian issue are developing. A meeting was held this summer in Bogor and Hun Sen, Sihanouk, and Son Sann met again in Paris in November. Representatives of the Khmer Rouge did not attend the meetings; but they are now attending the first meeting of the working group. I believe that reports about Vietnam fulfilling its commitments of withdrawing its 50,000 troops have played a role in the participation of the meeting by representatives of the Khmer Rouge. I believe that it will also create very good conditions for continued dialogue.

Further Commentary on Withdrawal

OW2412171188 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 22 Dec 88

[(Marfeskiy) commentary]

[Text] According to a report from Hanoi, on 21 December, soldiers and civilians in some Vietnamese provinces warmly welcomed the withdrawal from Cambodia of 6 divisions totaling 18,000 troops. Since June this year, 50,000 Vietnamese volunteers have been withdrawn from Cambodia. TASS commentator (Marfeskiy) notes: This action, showing good intentions, indicates that the Vietnamese Government has matched its words with its deeds. It is honoring its promise to withdraw all its troops from Cambodia by the year 1990.

The people's regime in Cambodia has been consolidated, and its armed forces are expanding, thanks to the national reconciliation policy which is aimed at finding a peaceful settlement to the armed conflicts that have destabilized the situation at home and in Southeast Asia for years.

The commentator says: Recently the conflicting parties in Cambodia have expressed the wish to hold dialogue. This was evidenced by the informal meeting on the Cambodia issue held in Bogor as well as the talks between Hun Sen, head of the Cambodian Government, and Prince Sihanouk in Paris.

At the Paris talks, both sides discussed the mechanism for a political settlement of the Cambodian issue, and maintained that this mechanism requires that Vietnam withdraw its troops, that Pol Pot not be allowed to stage a comeback, that military assistance to the conflicting parties be discontinued, and that interference in Cambodia's internal affairs be stopped. At a recent press conference in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen said that some people want the Pol Pot elements to play a certain political and military role under the pretext that this solution will serve as a check and balance system. This will not bring peace.

The Soviet Union maintains that the peaceful proposals advanced by the Vietnamese and the Cambodian governments and the concrete steps taken by them accordingly have contributed significantly to solving conflicts in Southeast Asia, eliminating military tension in this region, and normalizing (?military relations). Soviet leaders have repeatedly pointed out that the Soviet Union firmly stands for a peaceful solution of the Cambodia issue as soon as possible, and is willing to act as a guarantor for the agreement on settlement of the Cambodia issue.

Problems of SRV Guest Workers Viewed

PM1412145788 Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Dec 88 p 3

[Dispatch by own correspondent A. Kalashnikov under the rubric "Orbit of Community": "Both Successes and Problems; View from Hanoi of Soviet-Vietnamese Cooperation in the Manpower Resources Field"]

[Text] Hanoi, December—It is 8 years since the signing of the Soviet-Vietnamese intergovernmental agreement on training worker cadres for Vietnam in the USSR. There are now 50,000 Vietnamese working in the USSR.

Unfortunately, we write little about them.

"Only rarely do I encounter in the Soviet newspapers items about Vietnamese workers in the USSR," I was told by Le Phuong, chief editor of the journal NOVOSTI VIETNAMA. "They write about what glorious boys they are, how conscientiously they work, what interesting national traditions they have. But that is only part of the truth. We do know that there are also idlers and speculators among them. In a word, unworthy people..."

It must be said that the local press has seized on this theme in earnest. Newspaper items not only acknowledge their own omissions, they also criticize us. That was the case, for instance, in reports on the recent meeting in Sofia of representatives of Vietnamese workers employed at enterprises in the socialist countries. Its participants said that in their country of residence, the terms of agreements concerning the organization and remuneration of their labor, their living conditions, catering, and leisure are often not observed.

The central party organ, the newspaper NHAN DAN, cites the following facts: At the Kharkov footwear factory hostel rooms of 20 square meters each accommodate 8 young Vietnamese women and there are only 2 toilets, 1 shower room, and 10 gas rings for 200 people. At the Kharkov textile factory Vietnamese workers are not released from work on SRV national holidays, although this is specially stipulated in the agreement.

At the recent sixth congress of Vietnamese trade unions, I met with delegate Nguyen Van Nuoi, chairman of the trade union committee of a group of Vietnamese workers at the Kharkov "Hammer and Sickle" plant. According to him the Vietnamese often receive smaller wages for the same work and are given unsuitable work. He is trying to resolve the questions which are arising together with the Soviet trade union committee and the enterprise's administration, but not always successfully.

"There are cases of absenteeism, speculation, and illicit distilling," Nguyen Van Nuoi added. "Our newspapers also admit that sometimes the Vietnamese workers' behavior has an adverse effect on public order in Soviet cities."

I believe there are enough examples here to understand that many problems have accumulated in the implementation of the bilateral agreement on training worker cadres. And these problems do not end but are aggravated for those who have returned to their homeland.

What do they think on the subject in Hanoi? I turned for an answer to the Ministry of Labor and the provincial people's committees and talked with many Vietnamese who have worked in our country and with the representative of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems in the SRV.

"The signing of the intergovernmental Soviet-Vietnamese agreement and the course toward expanding cooperation with the socialist countries in the manpower resources field is a correct and good idea," I was told by Le Khak Hieu, SRV deputy minister of labor. "This enables us to resolve two very important tasks: finding employment for the population and training highly skilled cadres. For you this is an opportunity partly to compensate for the shortage of manpower.

"However," the deputy minister continued, "it must be said that our side has committed subjective errors in planning cadres requirements in particular professions. Many of them have turned out so far to be unnecessary by virtue of the underdevelopment of the SRV's industry. As a result, over half the workers trained in the socialist countries have not found employment in their own motherland or are not working in their special field."

Now I shall describe several conversations with Vietnamese who have returned home after working at Soviet enterprises. Nguyen Ky Mai left for Kherson immediately after graduating from secondary school, learned a profession at the cotton combine there, and after 4 years returned to Hanoi and found a job here at the factory—it was a good thing her speciality was a suitable one. While she worked in the USSR she was able to see a lot and made trips to Moscow, Leningrad, and Odessa. To a question about her impressions of our country she replies in a sincere and quite childlike way: "There are good people there and you can buy good things." Don't be in a hurry to smile. In 1986, for instance, the volume of Hanoi's entire retail trade was slightly in excess of the worth of the goods sent home by Vietnamese working in the socialist countries. Nguyen Ky Mai's apartment now contains a Soviet refrigerator, television, and ventilator and much else. You should have seen the pride in the eyes of the young 22-year-old who had provided her parents with what they could not earn over many years.

So that from the material viewpoint the advantage of these trips gives rise to no doubts. But yesterday's schoolgirl is one thing, a man who already has work in Vietnam is another. He will think many times before deciding to go: His job is not kept for him and who knows how long he will have to seek work later...

In Central Vietnam, in Da Nang city, I made the acquaintance of a young man on the street. "I used to work in the USSR," he told me bitterly. "In Ivanovo, as a loom mechanic. Since I returned home I have spent over a year looking for work. There are no such machines at the city's enterprises yet and I know no other trade."

"The employment situation in Da Nang is even more acute than for Vietnam as a whole," Says Pham Van Ngo, deputy chief of the city people's committee labor administration. Of an able-bodied population of 145,000 there are 21,000 unemployed. And we do not include in that figure those who have only just left school, those who have been demobilized from the army, and those who have received vocational training in the USSR and other socialist countries. Of the latter, only an insignificant number have work. At the same time, the shortage of skilled cadres is one of the main reasons why the city's footwear factory does not fulfill the plan for deliveries to the USSR."

Da Nang needs garment workers and footwear workers, yet on arriving in the USSR, workers from that city join the assembly conveyor belt at machine building enterprises. In addition, surely work on a conveyor belt does not give them high qualifications?

The reason for these disorders, it is believed in Da Nang, lies in the excessive centralization of management. After all what professions are needed is more evident on the spot. The republic's Ministry of Labor also now believes that it is necessary to supplement the level of intergovernmental cooperation in the manpower resources field with collaboration at the level of regions, sectors, and enterprises.

More clear-cut long-term planning is also needed on the Soviet side. So far it is often like "patching up holes." The leaders of those sectors and enterprises where there is an acute manpower shortage prefer, instead of being concerned for the modernization of production, to make requests for Vietnamese workers to be sent to them.

This year 3,000 people were sent for the first time from the SRV to Moscow and this figure will soon increase (I remember, it is true, that Muscovites were promised that the capital's industry could cope even without an imported workforce). Yet half as many Vietnamese were sent to the Far East, which is almost next door to Vietnam. In turn Maritime Kray, for instance, was obliged to invite people to work from the European part of the country. It is probably possible to avoid these human cross shipments.

With the full transition of enterprises and sectors to the new conditions of economic management and with the intensification of self management, the labor collectives themselves will be able to resolve the question of the expediency of recruiting foreign manpower. Perhaps then everything will fall into place?

In order not to compromise the idea the participation of public organizations and the press is necessary in this complex and delicate matter. Ways of resolving the problems must be sought in both countries. The Vietnamese side intends to improve the selection of young people who leave for the Soviet Union, taking into account primarily the candidates' moral and political qualities, and also to boost the educational work of their trade union committees at Soviet enterprises.

There is no doubt that all violations of labor legislation and the provisions of the intergovernmental agreement by the administration at Soviet enterprises should meet with a principled assessment from our trade union organs. This should equally be the case with illegal actions by Vietnamese workers. Our own and the Vietnamese trade union committees must work together.

"I have often encountered the following situation at Soviet enterprises," I was told by V.B. Mikheyev, representative of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems in the SRV. "'Why have their sent Vietnamese to the plant, what are they doing here?' our workers ask. It emerges that no one has explained to them in human terms the point of the agreement or tried to bring them close to the novices. Yet how many problems could then be avoided!"

The complex, delicate subject of Vietnamese workers in the USSR should be the focus of our attention.

Near East & South Asia

'Arafat Receives Message From Soviet Leaders

JN2312174388 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1613 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday noon received a message from the Soviet leadership on the latest political developments being witnessed in the region.

His excellency the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia conveyed the message at noon yesterday during a reception accorded to him by the brother commander in chief, Abu 'Ammar, who asked the ambassador to convey a reply message to the Soviet leadership.

During the meeting, they conducted a comprehensive review of the various current political developments on both the Arab and international levels.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abbas Zaki and the first secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Tunis.

Iranian Admits Operations in Afghanistan

LD2612134188 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1230 GMT 26 Dec 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Fresh cases of sabotage against the Republic of Afghanistan have been described at a Kabul news conference.

[Reporter M. Leshchinskiy, identified by caption] A 34-year-old Iranian citizen, Jamshid Noora, who was arrested in the Afghan border province of Nimroz for illegally entering the country and spying, faced the journalists. His mission was the usual one: military intelligence, organization of terrorist acts, spreading of disinformation, and intimidating and bribing the local population. [passage omitted]

Evidently, his service record enabled him to get close to the secret plans of the Iranian leadership. One of them, known under the two codenames of "Noon" and "Light," was drawn up for the period after the final withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. According to the plan, intensive preparations are under way for invading the neighboring country in order to install a pro-Khomeyni regime. Under secret agreements, declared Jamshid Noora, a large quantity of arms, including chemical weapons, are being supplied from the United States. A large center for the military training of Afghan refugees has been set up in the area of the holy city of Qom. The Iranian secret service man also stated that he personally took part in the compilation of lists of Afghans who would be subject to immediate elimination—leaders of all ranks and members of the PDPA, people who have studied in the USSR or, as he put it, those have been there even for a day. Those are the sort of plans that lurk behind the widely-publicized concern for the fate of the people of Afghanistan. [video shows prisoner being led into a conference room and speaking in front of seated journalists]

Iranian Envoy Visits Foreign Ministry
LD2312124988 Moscow TASS in English 1243 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—The Soviet Union's First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh received the Iranian ambassador to this country, Naser Heirani-Nobari, at the latter's request on Thursday.

They discussed bilateral Soviet-Iranian relations as well as a number of regional problems, including the Middle East, Afghanistan, and ways to achieve a political settlement between Iran and Iraq.

Iran To Export Uranium, Resume Reactor Work
NC2312144388 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] It was announced in Tehran that the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to export uranium ore in the near future to foreign countries. Some time ago, a huge uranium mine was discovered in Yazd Province. According to estimates by experts, export of this radioactive material to foreign countries will yield a profit of at least $200 million. Iranian official sources also plan to resume work on construction of nuclear reactor in Bushehr with a strength of 2400 megawatts. The construction of this nuclear plant had been initiated in 1970 but was suspended when the war began.

Weekly Interviews Afghan President Najibullah
LD2412190888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah gave a New Year interview to the Soviet weekly ECHOES OF THE PLANET. The full text of the interview follows:

[Question] In your view, which events of the current year, either at the international level in general, in this region, or in your work and activity, were important?

[Answer] The events of the outgoing year showed clearly that the world is passing on to nonmilitary methods of the settlement of regional conflicts. This is a result of the emergence of new political thinking and its consolidation in international relations. USSR-U.S. summits that resulted in the signing of the treaty on intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles and brought closer the possibility of the conclusion of a treaty on 50-percent cuts in strategic offensive arms can be assessed as an initial step toward reduction, and subsequent elimination, of all stockpiles of nuclear arms. This process is of great importance also for developing countries, Afghanistan included. For large funds saved as a result of ending the development and production of nuclear arms can be channeled for relief to developing countries, for combating poverty, developing the health services, and overcoming economic and social backwardness.

The signing by Afghanistan and Pakistan of the Geneva accords aimed at the settlement of one of the most acute regional conflicts has become another specific result of new political thinking. These accords were also signed by the USSR and the United States as guarantor countries. Deplorably, because of the negative stand of Pakistan and the United States, which broke their obligations, serious damage has been caused to the spirit and the letter of the Geneva accords and this, naturally, lessens their effectiveness considerably. On their part, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union scrupulously comply with all the provisions of the documents of the Geneva package. We believe Washington and Islamabad should respond positively to the call for reason and show a sane approach for the vital demands of the times. Prolonged diplomatic efforts that have resulted in a major political success should not become futile. An opportunity to achieve a breakthrough in the settlement of other regional conflicts, also of the Kampuchean, the Middle Eastern, the conflict in southwest Africa, should not be lost.

The resolution of the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly related to Afghanistan merits close attention as an example of positive development in international relations. It is aimed at a political settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan. It is for the first time that the United Nations achieved a consensus on this problem.

There are great hopes for the improvement of the situation in South Asia in connection with elections in Pakistan. After eleven years of dictatorship, the Pakistani people went to polling stations hoping for the reviving of democracy in their country. The end to the Iran-Iraq war should become an important factor of the restoration of peace and stability in the region. We have recently witnessed a marked improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations. We wish wholeheartedly that the rapprochement of the two great states should promote the improvement of the political climate in the region and all over the world. The USSR's relations with the other great Asian country, India, merit attention in this connection. Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to New Delhi gave a new impetus to bilateral relations, and promoted the consolidation of stability in the region.

The proclamation by the Palestine National Council of an independent Palestinian state has undoubtedly become one of the most important events of the outgoing year for the Middle East and the whole world. The election of the new President of the United States also attracted the attention of the world community.

We assess Mikhail Gorbachev's address delivered at the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly as an event of great importance. Many key questions of international affairs were touched upon in the address, among them the United Nations' role in the world today, economic problems of developing countries, and regional conflicts, including the situation related to Afghanistan. The statement about unilateral reduction of the Soviet Union's Armed Forces attracted much attention. At a time when the new year's eve is approaching, the Soviet leader's speech evoked great interest in the world and was met with much satisfaction.

As regards Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals on Afghanistan, I would like to note that all of them are fully in keeping with the way of thinking and policy of the Republic of Afghanistan. In this connection it would be appropriate to mention our latest initiatives aimed at the ensurance of peace on Afghanistan's territory. What was proposed by Comrade Gorbachev sums up numerous diplomatic efforts for the settlement, and completes the range of political measures which resulted, specifically, in the Geneva accords and the November resolution of the United Nations General Assembly.

[Question] On the eve of the New Year, what makes you optimistic and what is worrying you?

[Answer] We are, naturally, satisfied with everything being done to alleviate the suffering of people. However, we still remain extremely concerned that despite numerous proposals and initatives of the republic of Afghanistan aimed at an early political settlement, the Afghan people undergo uncountable suffering for the reason that Pakistan and the United States continue the policy of interference. The Geneva accords envisage the unconditional fulfillment by those two countries of their obligations, including an obligation to stop intervention, also armed intervention in the affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. Deplorably, these obligations are openly violated. For instance, irreconcilable armed groups of the opposition are being supplied with armaments and equipment and sent to the Afghan territory. Still I would like to note with satisfaction that, despite the nonconstructive course of definite circles in the United States and Pakistan directed against our people and state, the humane policy of national reconciliation assumes a firm basis and wins over ever new supporters.

The Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan endorsed at the Loya Jirgah by representatives of broad sections of the people, including our adversaries, has created the conditions for active participation of the entire population in the country's political and public life. It has become truly a Constitution of national reconciliation. Free democratic elections to the National Council were held in accordance with the fundamental law. A coalition government has been formed. We can say now that the present government headed by esteemed Muhammad Hasan Sharq, which includes representatives of a number of political parties, is as if a bridge for the formation of another coalition on a broader base. This government should have a realistic program which would attract the majority of Afghans. The same approach to this matter is reflected in the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on Afghanistan.

USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister, Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan Yuliy Vorontsov recently had a meeting with representatives of Afghan oppositional formations. On agreement with the leadership of our republic the meeting was held in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia. The Afghan leadership, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the entire peaceful people of our country have assessed these talks as a useful and important step toward the consolidation of ties among Afghans, a step which is fully in accordance with the policy of national reconciliation.

TASS Reports Interview

LD2412091388 Moscow TASS in English 0834 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—"The events of the outgoing year showed clearly that the world is passing on to non-military methods of the settlement of regional conflicts. This is a result of the emergence of new political thinking and its consolidation in international relations." President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah said in an interview to the Soviet weekly "ECHO OF THE PLANET".

"We assess Mikhail Gorbachev's address delivered at the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly as an event of great importance. Many key questions of international affairs were touched upon in the address," Najibullah stressed.

What was proposed by Comrade Gorbachev on Afghanistan sums up numerous diplomatic efforts for the settlement, completes the range of political measures which resulted, specifically, in the Geneva Accords and the November resolution of the United Nations General Assembly.

"We are, naturally, satisfied with everything that is being done to alleviate the suffering of people. However, we stil remain extremely concerned that despite numerous proposals and initiatives of the Republic of Afghanistan aimed at an early political settlement, the Afghan people undergo uncountable suffering for the reason that Pakistan and the USA continue the policy of interference."

The Geneva Accords envisage the unconditional fulfilment by those two countries of their obligations, including an obligation to stop intervention, also armed intervention in the affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. Deplorably, these obligations are openly violated. For instance, irreconcilable armed groups of the opposition are being supplied with armaments and equipment and sent to the Afghan territory.

At the same time Najibullah noted with satisfaction that, despite the non-constructive course of definite circles in the USA and Pakistan directed against our people and state, the humane policy of national reconciliation assumes a firm basis and wins over ever new supporters.

The present government, which includes representatives of a number of political parties, is as if a bridge for the formation of another coalition on a broader base, Najibullah said. This government should have a realistic program which would attract the majority of Afghans. The same approach to this matter is reflected in the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on Afghanistan.

Najibullah Analyzes Afghan Party Role

LD2312131988 Moscow TASS in English 1212 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul December 23 TASS—The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) has renounced monopoly on power but it has by no means renounced participation in running the country, the party Central Committee's general secretary Najibullah, who is also Afghan president, has said.

Speaking at a conference at the PDPA Central Committee, he made an in-depth analysis of the party's role in conditions where, after the withdrawal of Soviet troops, it should assume all responsibility for ensuring peace and stopping war in the country.

Touching on problems of a political settlement, Najibullah said the party line today was national reconciliation, which had become an official policy of Afghanistan.

He called attention to the latest initiatives of the Afghan and Soviet leadership for peacefully resolving existing problems, in particular proposals for an international conference on the neutrality and demilitarisation of Afghanistan, for talks with the opposition and for a most broadly-based coalition government.

But the opposition, alas, remained opposed to reconciliation, he noted. Owing to support from the United States and Pakistan violating the Geneva agreements on a political settlement regarding Afghanistan, extremists continued a senseless war with its enormous casualties and wide-spread destruction.

"The opposition is forcing us to the path of bloodletting, while our task is to force it to the path of national reconciliation," Najibullah said.

"The other side must realize that without the PDPA it is unrealistic to restore peace to the country, and is simply duty-bound to take an objective look at the existing situation and assume a constructive stand," he added.

Najibullah made a critical review of the party's activities over the past two years, pointing, among other things, to the low efficiency of propaganda work among the masses.

He stressed the need to rally the party's ranks even more closely, saying that it could only remain a potent political force if completely united.

Vorontsov Meets Former Afghan King in Rome

LD2512133188 Moscow TASS in English 1322 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Rome December 25 TASS—Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister and ambassador to Afghanistan, met in Rome on December 24 with former Afghan King Zahir Shah by arrangement with President Najibullah of Afghanistan.

They had a thorough discussion of ways of settling the Afghan problem.

The Soviet side emphasised the firm intention of the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan to press for stopping hostilities, accelerating the process of peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan and creating necessary conditions for the formation of a broad-based government in that country.

Both the Soviet Union and the Afghan leadership maintain that Zahir Shah could play a useful part in restoring peace on Afghan soil and initiating an all-Afghan dialogue with the participation of all political forces.

For his part, Zahir Shah emphasised commitment to the idea of ending hostilities and settling the conflict by political methods.

He expressed his assessments of the steps that were being undertaken in that direction and a number of considerations on this account.

The sides agreed to continue contacts.

Solton Comments on Talks

LD2612141588 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] It must have come as a surprise to many when the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Afghanistan, Yuliy Vorontsov, met in Rome with the former Afghan King Zahir Shah. This is what Radio Moscow's Yuriy Solton writes.

I wouldn't make this a sensation, he says. It was logical to expect that after the initial Soviet contacts with the representatives of the Afghan opposition leaders, the alliance of seven, based in Peshawar, that Moscow and Kabul would take further steps to start a general Afghan dialogue. I wouldn't be surprised, says Yuriy Solton, if members of the Afghan opposition who found asylum in Iran will also get involved in a dialogue at some stage or other.

The circumstances thus far are shaping for the talks to be conducted by Soviet officials but it should be also emphasized that the line of the talks was drawn up jointly with the Afghan leadership and that President Najibullah is an enthusiastic champion of the talks. It is being felt in Kabul that there is a platform to rally together on all the confronting political forces right now. It could be said that the goal advanced by the Afghan leadership to ensure for Afghanistan the status of an independent, neutral, and nonaligned state with full respect for the Muslim religion is close to all the people who sincerely wish to have an end to the war that is depleting the strength of the country and is accompanied with growing bloodshed.

During his conversation with Zahir Shah Yuliy Vorontsov underlined the firm intention of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan to press for a cessation of the hostilities for speeding up a peaceful political settlement and for creating the necessary conditions for a broad based government. Of course the process of forming such a government would be much more efficient if there were a cease-fire in the country. Such a proposal was made, by the way, at the United Nations on the 7th of December by President Gorbachev. Soviet leaders believe that as of the new year there can be a full cease-fire in Afghanistan and, linked with it—which is very important—a stop as of that day to the supplies of arms for all the warring sides.

So far there has been no positive response from what is called the irreconcilable Afghan opposition. The fighting in Afghanistan goes on but the very fact that the opposition has agreed to have the initial contacts and to carry them on is hopeful. I believe, writes Yuriy Solton in conclusion, that despite many difficulties the new year of 1989 can become a year of peace in Afghanistan.

Role of Former Afghan King Assessed

LD2712132088 Moscow World Service in English 0410 GMT 27 Dec 88

[From the "Update" program presented by Yuriy Reshetnikov]

[Text] [Announcer] A high-ranking Soviet official on Saturday met former Afghan king Zahir Shah in an attempt to engage him in a search for a political settlement in Afghanistan. What role may be envisaged for the former Afghan monarch 15 years after his downfall in the wake of a military coup?

[Reshetnikov] Zahir Shah has lived quietly in Rome since he was overthrown in a palace coup in 1973, and reportedly he appeared to be resigned to his fate as a former monarch. But the apparent deadlock in the civil war in Afghanistan calls for efforts to find a suitable power broker who could help put an end to that war. The Afghan government said on Sunday the former king could play a useful role in ending the war. The statement followed a meeting in Rome between Zahir Shah and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov. Afghan and Soviet leaders believe, the statement said, the former king can make a useful contribution to reconciliation, serving as a balance between extremist leaders and the Afghan government.

Earlier Yuliy Vorontsov said after meeting the king he had invited Zahir Shah to join talks in forming a broad-based Afghan government to take over power after the Soviet Union completes its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan by 15 February. The two men reportedly discussed cessation of hostilities, improving the political situation and forming a strong government in Afghanistan. Earlier this month in an effort to sound out all parties to the Afghan conflict, Yuliy Vorontsov met representatives of Afghan opposition for talks in Saudi Arabia, and he said he planned to meet more representatives from the rival groups.

[Announcer] The results of the latest mediation efforts launched by the Soviet Union to bring the Afghan war to an end remain to be seen, and they may not be apparent for some time to come. Meanwhile the Soviet Union has a deadline to meet, that is 15th February, when all of its troops, in keeping with the Geneva Accords, are expected to be out of that country. Is the Soviet Union still prepared to meet the deadline whatever the results of its diplomatic efforts?

[Reshetnikov] Well, first of all we expect that other parties to the Geneva Accords will faithfully fulfill their obligations. We have a perfect right to expect Pakistan and the United States to comply with their part of the deal, which envisages the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country. The Soviet Union suspended the withdrawal of its troops after watching a nonstop conveyor of violations of the Geneva accords from the opposite side, as Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze put it.

Yuliy Vorontsov, after his meeting with the former Afghan king in Rome, told journalists the Soviet Union would honor its commitment to pull out its troops by next 15th February if (?a generous first) ceasefire earlier proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev came into effect, and if the various factions involved in the conflict sat down at the negotiating table. It all depends on whether those proposals are accepted, he noted. If the proposals are not accepted, the Afghan opposition will continue its military operations. That will naturally complicate the situation, Yuliy Vorontsov concluded. To help resolve the deadlock in peace efforts, the Soviet Union and Afghanistan are also pressing for an international conference on the neutrality and demilitarization of Afghanistan.

Afghan Official Interviewed During Visit

LD2312133288 Moscow TASS in English 1320 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—The Soviet Union and Afghanistan are acting in close cooperation in efforts to settle the situation regarding Afghanistan and fulfill the Geneva agreements, according to an Afghan Government spokesman.

Ghulam Sarwar Yuresh, chief of the Information Department at the Afghan President's Office who is staying here on a business visit, was speaking in an interview with TASS diplomatic correspondent Vadim Biryukov.

He said the top Afghan leadership supports proposals for a political settlement related to Afghanistan, which have been made by Mikhail Gorbachev in his U.N. address.

It also highly appreciates the results of meetings at al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, between Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, and representatives of the Afghan opposition.

"In the Republic of Afghanistan all these actions are seen as fully corresponding to our leadership's policy," Ghulam Sarwar Yuresh said.

"By contrast, the actions of Pakistan hindering the realization of the Geneva agreements should be condemned most sternly," he added.

The Afghan spokesman pointed to such recent examples as the downing of two Afghan transport aircraft by Pakistani Air Force planes, killing 54 people, and the involvement of Pakistani Army and paramilitary units in fighting on the side of the Afghan opposition in the areas of Qandahar and Nangarhar.

"These are obvious instances of Pakistani meddling in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Far from subsiding, this interference keeps escalating," he said.

"We are convinced that the resolution on Afghanistan of the 43d U.N. General Assembly session should be backed up with a series of practical activities. It is our opinion that it is essential to hold an international conference to consolidate Afghanistan's status as a neutral and demilitarised nation," Ghulam Sarwar Yuresh said.

"It is needed for this first of all to declare a ceasefire between the warring sides and send U.N. peace-keeping forces to Afghanistan," he added.

'Complicated' Afghan Situation Reported

LD2612114188 Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Vasilyev commentary]

[Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—By TASS commentator Grigoriy Vasilyev:

Several new aspects have appeared in Afghanistan's foreign policy and in the domestic political situation during the outgoing year, which cannot help influencing substantially the solution of the Afghan problem as a whole.

It goes without saying that the Geneva agreements constitute the most important landmark in the development of the situation around Afghanistan. They were highly assessed by world public opinion and provided a realistic foundation for a mutually-acceptable settlement of the Afghan problem already this year. This, unfortunately, did not happen for several reasons. The most important of them are Pakistan's systematic violation of the Geneva agreements, massive arms deliveries to the irreconcilable opposition and the latter's refusal to start a dialogue with Kabul within the frameworks of the policy of national reconciliation.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has come out with several concrete initiatives. It has proposed, for instance, to call an international conference under U.N. aegis to discuss problems concerning Afghanistan. These problems include the status of Afghanistan as a neutral and nonaligned state, international economic, humanitarian and other aid to the republic, and demilitarisation of the country. The Afghan leadership also moved to hold direct negotiations with the irreconcilable opposition, to set up a national coalition government.

Mikhail Gorbachev's concrete and realistic proposals at the United Nations have evoked a broad and positive resonance. It is quite obvious that a ceasefire starting as of next year, discontinuance of arms deliveries to the belligerants, dispatch to Kabul and other strategic centres of a contingent of U.N. forces, which are to stay there for the period of the installation of a broadly representative government, would contribute decisively to the improvement of the situation in Afghanistan and around it. The quickest possible healing of war wounds, restoration of the national economy remain the key task today. On agreement with the Afghan leadership, the Soviet Union has established direct contact with leaders of the Peshawar "alliance of seven". These contacts are expected to be continued.

In the meantime, the situation around Afghanistan remains complicated. The evolution of this painful regional conflict dictates most imperatively its earliest settlement, which not only meets fully the vital interests of the Afghan people, but is bound to bring about a notable improvement of the international climate as a whole.

Afghan Army, Opposition Clashes Continue

Opposition Thwarted in Laghman

LD2412141088 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul December 24 TASS—By TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin:

Afghan Government forces, continuing to rout armed opposition groups in the eastern province of Laghman, killed or wounded some 100 extremists and destroyed large amounts of enemy weapons there in the past 24 hours, BAKHTAR news agency reported.

"The three-day heroic defense of the city of Mehtarlam has thwarted the opposition's plans to establish control over the province," it quoted Laghman deputy governor Shafiqullah Tudai as saying.

He said that a delegation of elders had been sent to opposition commanders to talk them into negotiations with authorities and out of mounting an attack on the city. But the appeal for peace was ignored.

Tudai said that the attackers had had dozens of vehicles and wagons to carry booty out of the city but had to load them instead with corpses and wounded extremists.

The Laghman deputy governor spoke highly of the heroism of the city's defenders, noting that Afghan Army troops, members of armed units of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and home-guard detachments had fought shoulder to shoulder under the same command.

BAKHTAR carried a military communique reporting fighting between government forces and opposition groups in Qandahar, Herat, Farah and Ghazni provinces.

In Farah Army troops have seized considerable amounts of enemy ammunition, including 43 boxes with cartridges for large-caliber machine-guns, 42 boxes with shells for recoilless guns, around a thousand mines and grenades, and two clothing and hardware caches.

The communique reported that four Arab military advisers had been killed in fighting on the side of anti-government groups in Herat and Ghazni.

It added that up to 150 extremists from rival opposition groups had been killed or wounded in internecine clashes over recent days.

BAKHTAR also reported that the Afghan Foreign Ministry had handed its 160th note to the U.N. Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan, listing specific Pakistani violations of the Geneva agreements.

Fighting in Qandahar, Elsewhere

LD2612104888 Moscow TASS in English 1032 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul December 26 TASS—Government troops are continuing operations against rebel formations in different provinces of Afghanistan, according to a communique issued by the military command. A detachment of "irreconcilable" opposition forces was routed yesterday in Daman District of Qandahar Province. The extremists lost more than 50 men killed and wounded. Large quantities of armaments, including heavy weapons, and a depot of "ground-to-ground" missiles have been destroyed. Successful operations have also been carried out against rebel forces in Helmand, Nangarhar, Konduz and Balkh Provinces. Clashes between Rival extremists groups have taken place in Helmand and Sari-Pol Provinces. They took a toll of 30 killed. On December 24 the armed opposition subjected to heavy shelling residential areas in Sarubi District of Kabul Province. Casualties among the civilian population have been reported. Several buildings were destroyed. A 40-man group of former opponents of national reconciliation have voluntarily ceased fire in Balkh District and sided with the people's power. Addressing a meeting held on this occasion, their commander Ghulam Sahi Koshki said that the group wanted to contribute the best it could to the national reconciliation policy.

A meeting of public representatives was held in Qandahar Province. It expresses resolute support to President Najibullah's peaceful initiatives. The speakers noted their great importance in achieving a political settlement around Afghanistan.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan addressed its 161st and 162dn notes to the U.N. Observer's Mission in Kabul. The documents, according to BAKHTAR, protest against continuing deliveries from Pakistan of modern weapons to extremist armed formations and against the escalation of hostilities aginst Afghanistan.

'Extremists' Shell Konduz

LD2612225488 Moscow TASS in English 2246 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul December 27 TASS—One woman was killed and eight other persons were wounded—such was the result of the shelling with rockets of the north Afghan city of Konduz on Monday. The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY reported that the extremists fired some 40 rockets at Konduz, causing destruction. Units of Afghan Armed Forces dealt a strike at opposition groups in the provinces of Qandahar, Paktia and Kabul. The Afghan command has the information that some 60 rebels were killed and dozens wounded.

Afghan War Veterans' Problems Reported

PM2312131188 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian 24-30 Dec 88 (Signed to Press 21 Dec 88) pp 4-5

[Report by special correspondent V. Romanenko: "Afghanistan: Returning to Civilian Life"; first four paragraphs are ARGUMENTY I FAKTY introduction]

[Text] The withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan ends 15 February 1989. Do we always welcome in the way they deserve the soldiers and officers who have experienced hard military routine?

Unfortunately, publications in the press and letters from readers attest to instances of a negligent, heartless attitude toward former internationalist servicemen and to the negative attitude of a section of the population toward the benefits which they can enjoy.

Sometimes this comes from callousness, indifference, and a shortage of charity, sometimes from ignorance of the moral and psychological upheavals which these young men have experienced.

Our special correspondent V. Romanenko recently visited Afghanistan where he met with soldiers, military and civilian specialists, doctors, and inhabitants of Kabul. This article was the result of these meetings and talks.

It is essential to consider that some Western mass media and "radio voices" are using any opportunity to discredit the Soviet Union in the eyes of the world public.

A graphic illustration of this approach toward the coverage of events in Afghanistan is the article by B. Treynon [name as transliterated] published in THE NEW YORK TIMES recently, which asserts that "throughout most of the past 8 years the Soviet Army in Afghanistan has been distinguished neither by good discipline nor lofty motives."

On what grounds are such conclusions drawn? On the basis of items in the Western press and talks with Soviet deserters in Afghanistan. These are of course very "objective" data for analyzing a problem as serious as the Afghan one.

Later THE NEW YORK TIMES, which has constantly stressed that "the Kabul regime is maintained on Soviet bayonets," was obliged to admit that "the prospects for a rapid victory for the resistance forces are problematic, irrespective of whether or not the Soviet troops are withdrawn."

I should like to stress that, in assessing the Soviet troops' actions in Afghanistan, researchers of this kind forget the main thing: The Soviet troops were brought into Afghanistan, first, at the request of the legitimate Afghan Government and, second, not for active combat operations but to protect sites of state importance: cities, roads, water sources, airports, and so forth. And, third, when you are on Afghan soil you can see for yourself how far removed our internationalist servicemen are from the image of "occupiers" in which the "radio voices" and some Western newspapers are trying to present them. Virtually every day you encounter surprising examples of heroism, of interethnic and international friendship, of mutual assistance and a solicitous attitude toward one another although, naturally, there are exceptions.

When reinforcements come to a military unit to take over from those who have completed their service in Afghanistan, then the "old inhabitants" march ahead in all complex and critical situations. Why? Because, in risking their lives, they are trying to preserve the lives of their comrades who have not yet grown used to the complex military situation and are therefore more vulnerable. After all, the "Afghan soldier" has his science. And to comprehend it, as the soldiers themselves say, you first have to "feel it with your whole being." And there are many such examples.

Glasnost Is the Most Effective "Medicine"

But at the same time Afghanistan has also shed light on a series of new problems, sometimes unexpected to us. Primarily, of course, psychological problems. People are not robots. The psyche of a man, especially a young man, is very complex and subtle, I would even say it is a delicate instrument which reacts sensitively to new, especially unusual, extreme circumstances. Military doctors explained that under conditions of prolonged stress (and that is precisely what the wartime situation is) some servicemen develop so-called post-trauma stress, whose characteristic features are depression and the inability to adapt to civilian life. These changes persist for a long time, as a rule. This is a real problem, which our doctors are already encountering today.

At the same time Professor A. Novitskiy's group from the S.M. Kirov military medical academy, which has been working in Afghanistan for a long time, has proven scientifically that many of our soldiers develop the syndrome of ecological and professional exhaustion, the result of which is the suppression of the immune system, vitamin deficiency, and the frequent contraction of infectious diseases.

Also important is the so-called protracted isolation syndrome. Practice shows that in small military garrisons, particularly in remote posts, personality clashes arise between servicemen and sometimes end tragically. Many commanders and political workers underestimate a fact long known in science: Under conditions of the prolonged, albeit relative isolation of a small collective the role of psychological compatibility increases immeasurably.

The situation is aggravated by shortcomings in the organization of the psychiatric service. The result is the slack preventive work among the troops. Although, to be fair, it must be said that mental illnesses are a rare phenomenon among our "Afghans."

Resolving the Problems Which Have Arisen

Second, Afghanistan has revealed shortcomings in the organization of medical aid and the evacuation of the wounded. Military field surgery methods developed back during World War II have not always proved suitable or effective under the conditions of Afghanistan. The nature of injuries when modern types of weapons are used has required the development of new methods of treatment, new medical equipment and preparations, within a very short time. Soviet doctors have emerged with honor from a complex situation. Virtually all the most important medical problems have now been resolved. But we should not forget that in the first years the level of complications after wounding was far higher than now and it is not possible to bring back those whose lives could have been saved and whose ability to work could have been restored, or whose degree of disability could at least have been reduced.

Addressing the all-union congress of doctors, Yu. Nemytin, chief of a district military hospital in Afghanistan, spoke with anguish of how "...servicemen who have gone through the harsh school of Afghanistan and received wounds there or suffered serious illnesses deserve greater compassion from us than that which surrounds them today."

Third, some of our publications have already reported that drug addiction and substance abuse have spread among some of the personnel of our military contingent. The army addiction service is weak and has little power. There have been cases where relatively cheap "Afghan" drugs have been sent to our country via the Central Asian republics.

This war has levied a heavy charge and many of those who have passed through Afghanistan have paid the most expensive price—their lives—while many have become invalids. Perhaps no Soviet person today doubts the magnitude of the exploit of the internationalist servicemen. Nor are you likely to find among us anyone who looks with indifference at the emergence of the new obelisks bearing the words "died in the execution of his international duty" or the tears of the mothers mourning their sons.

At the same time we should not forget that the Afghan question is an extremely complex problem with many aspects whose artifical primitivization or idealization is dangerous in that society and its institutions may prove unprepared to resolve it.

Bessmertnykh Meets With Libyan Envoy

LD2312213488 Moscow TASS in English 2042 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh received today Secretary of the People's Bureau (ambassador) of Libya in Moscow Dau Sueidan. [spelling of name as received]. They discussed the situation relating to Libya and some aspects of bilateral relations.

Commentator on U.S. 'Threats' Against Libya

LD2612141788 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Pogodin commentary]

[Text] The Arab League Council today holds an urgent meeting in Tunis at the request of Libya. It will discuss the dangerous situation that has developed following United States' threats to attack industrial facilities on Libya's territory. Here is what Radio Moscow commentator Aleksandr Pogodin writes:

The pretext for the threats is well known; the United States claims that chemical weapons are made at one of the industrial enterprises in Libya. It is also well-known that the statement is completely false. Libyan officials have denied the charge and said that the factory mentioned produces medicines only. Representatives of some of the European and Japanese firms which helped to build it said the technological equipment installed there could not be used to make chemical weapons.

It would seem that everything is clear; however, even after all the clarifications an official spokesman of the White House said the question about the use of military force continues to be studied. In other words the threat of an attack on Libya remains. In order to properly assess how real that threat is one should recall the events of 1986. At that time the United States planes and warships bombed and shelled the residential quarters of Tripoli, the capital of Libya, and certain other cities. More than 100 persons were killed and hundreds were wounded. The attacks were denounced by the world community as an open act of government-sponsored terrorism. Nothing came out of the attempts to intimidate Libya, it stood firm against crude military and political blackmail. What's more it continues to work actively for uniting the Arab world in the struggle for eliminating the aftermath of Israel's aggression and against the attempts of Washington to make it give up its anti-imperialist course.

The present day events show that the American Government refuses to reconcile itself with all this, hence the threats to use military force. Such political methods are totally unacceptable, especially today when practical signs have appeared for reducing tension in the world and renouncing military force in settling regional conflicts. The new dangerous actions of the United States are in sharp contrast to these trends.

Syria Denounces U.S. Anti-Libya Campaign

LD2612065888 Moscow TASS in English 0619 26 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus December 26 TASS—The Syrian Arab Republic strongly denounces a new anti-Libyan campaign unleashed by the U.S. under the pretext that the Libyan Jamahiriya allegedly produces chemical weapons, says a statement of Syria's official spokesman circulated here the purpose of the campaign to justify another aggression against Libya before world public opinion.

The statement emphasised that Syria reiterated its support for the Libyan Jamahiriya and urged the world community to denounce Washington's policy of threats and aggression against the sovereign state.

Indian Satellite Detects Diamonds, Rubies

LD2512150588 Moscow TASS in English 1422 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] New Delhi December 25 TASS—The first Indian research satellite named IRS-1A which was put into orbit by a Soviet booster rocket from the Baykonur Cosmodrome nine months ago, helped detect promising deposits of diamonds and rubies near the village of Wajranagar and deposits of zinc and copper near the village of Wantimata, Andhra Pradesh State, as well as copper reserves in Karnataka State. This data were made public at a press conference in New Delhi by U.R. Rao, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation.

The research satellite enables Indian hydrogeologists to determine with greater accuracy the presence and reserves of subsoil waters. According to Professor Rao, efficiency of ordinary methods of search for subsoil waters is equal to 45 per cent, the satellite raised this percentage to 94.

Using the satellite, Indian scientists study the state of the republic's forests on a regular basis, have worked out a technology of assessing reserves of such trees as teak and chanar, and have completed surveying some 80 per cent of the country's administrative areas to detect waste lands, to determine their peculiar features and possibilities of their utilization.

Using data from the satellite, Indian researchers perfect methods of improving lands, combatting their salination and erosion and give relatively precise forecasts for snow thawing in mountains, which is a good help in planning the operation of hydropower schemes.

Professor Rao noted that far from all was good with the Indian space programme. Serious malfunctions developed in the communications satellite Insat-1c launched by a West German rocket. Therefore, in April-May 1989 a U.S. rocket will lift off another satellite of this series developed by an American company. According to Rao, a setback with the launching last April of an Indian booster rocket designed to put satellites into a polar orbit delayed the implementation of the Indian space programme by about a year.

East Europe

Pilot Error Probable in Yugoslav Plane Crash
LD2312171488 Moscow TASS in English 1653 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—The commission believes that the information received by the Yugoslav crew allowed it to perform the flight safely even without visibility, using only the aerodrome plan. This comment was made by Rudolf Teimurazov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Air Inspection, who is head of the commission investigating the causes of the crash of the Yugoslav transport plane AN-12 in the area of Yerevan on December 12. The plane was carrying emergency supplies for the victims of an earthquake in Armenia. Experts, who familiarized themselves with the recordings of data monitors and the findings of the inquiry did not find any faults in the work of the engines of the aircraft, its system and equipment, Teimurazov said. One can assume that there were no factors threatening the safety of the flight.

The head of the commission said there were no obstacles for receiving the Yugoslav crew: AN-12 was the only aircraft landing in Zvartnotz. During its flight information in English was regularly sent by radio. All necessary data as provided, including weather conditions: wind of 2 m/sec, air temperature of four degrees above zero, fog and visibility of 11 kilometers....

According to existing rules, the crew should have confirmed the reception of that information during the first contact with air traffic control. Unfortunately, the Yugoslav pilots did not do it, and the air traffic controller failed to ask for it. The checking of pressure instruments (measuring altitude) showed of atmospheric pressure at Zvartnotz Airport—685 millieters of mercury column. Because of this altitude readings on the meters were higher than 800 meters which played a fateful role in future: the aircraft crashed when the instruments showed an altitude of 870 meters....

Besides, it was established that the crew did not prepare the plane for landing—the undercarriage and flaps were retracted at a time when they should have been extended in advance. It is absolutely obvious that the Yugoslav pilots were in a hurry. This is understandable: they wanted to deliver the quake relief supplies as soon as possible.

The investigation into all circumstances of the catastrophe is continuing. Ground services of the airport are being checked.

Yugoslavia's Suvar Sends Thanks for Greetings
LD2612185188 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 26 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Stipe Suvar, chairman of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, thanked the CPSU Central Committee for greetings sent on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic. He also expressed confidence that the profound social reforms taking place in Yugoslavia and in the Soviet Union would strengthen principles of cooperation between our parties and countries.

Bessmertnykh Receives Yugoslav Ambassador 23 Dec
PM2712134988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Ambassador Received"]

[Text] A.A. Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy foreign minister, received M. Veres, SFRY's ambassador to the USSR, 23 December at the latter's request. An exchange of opinions on a number of topical regional problems took place.

Figures for Yugoslav AIDS Cases Reported

LD2712124888 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0945 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Belgrade, 27 Dec (TASS)—According to the data published in the press today, the number of people with AIDS in Yugoslavia is 65, of which 25 are dead. This was reported today by Branko Pocek, chairman of the Federal Commission to Combat the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. He said that in 1985, 2 cases of the illness were registered in the SFRY; 6 in 1986; 18 in 1987; 39 in 1988. These are mainly people between the ages of 20 and 39. The greater proportion of people with AIDS is made up of drug addicts, 32.3 percent.

Poland's Orzechowski on Stalinism, Party Plenum

PM2312123788 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Dec 88 Second Edition p 5

[Interview with Marian Orzechowski, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, by APN correspondent Aleksandr Bondar in Warsaw: "Debate Not Yet Over"; date not given; first two paragraphs are TASS report]

[Text] Warsaw, 22 Dec (TASS)—The proposals submitted by the PZPR Central Committee Politburo for restructuring and lending greater dynamism to party work have met with understanding and support from members of the party Central Committee, W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, has emphasized. Speaking at the conclusion of the first part of the 10th PZPR Central Committee Plenum, he said that it would be possible to sum up the results of the plenum's work in full in mid-January, during its second, concluding part.

Touching on the problems of national concord and the "roundtable" raised during the debate, the PZPR Central Committee first secretary pointed out that securing real agreement among Poles is a matter of the greatest importance. The PZPR firmly and sincerely advocates this. But compromise and concord with regard to the chief problems are needed here. The party, its partners in the coalition, and the people's government invariably address their proposals to all who express such a responsible approach.

Warsaw—In the breaks between sessions Marian Orzechowski, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, who delivered the Politburo report, agreed to answer the APN correspondent's questions specially for SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

[Bondar] Comrade Secretary, the political report spoke of the need finally to dissociate yourselves from the vestiges of Stalinism still apparent today. What do you have in mind?

[Orzechowski] The chief features of the system for realizing power and organizing social and economic life that is customarily called "Stalinism" are unnaturally proliferated centralization, authoritarianism, and the elevation to an absolute of the state's command-distributive functions. It means the theory of socialist building squeezed into ossified dogmas and forms which ignore real, actual social changes. It means a practice which runs counter to socialism's fundamental values of democracy, social justice, and respect for the person and his rights and dignity. It means suppression of the masses' initiative, energy, and creativity, faith in the magic of words, and deeply ingrained mistrust of people. Finally, it means the tendency of the powers that be to proclaim "gospel" truths and their conviction that their own wisdom is greater than that of working people.

Poland broke with that system in 1956. But did it do so in full, to the end? Of course not. Many elements of that system (or derivatives of it) still exist in the state and the economy and in social life. The turning point in eliminating the vestiges of the centralized bureaucratic system began with the decisions of the Extraordinary Ninth PZPR Congress. The strategy of socialist renewal and reforms in Poland means, in particular, the elimination of the vestiges of Stalinism too. Some of them still affect the functioning of the state and the economy and also tell in the party and in social life. Traces can still be noted in people's consciousness, including that of party members, and they are the cause of dogmatic positions and hindrances in implementing the program of reforms.

The PZPR Central Committee Politburo believes that the final overcoming and elimination of the centralized bureaucratic system—that is, Stalinism—is an important and essential constituent part of renewal and of the changes which are creating a new model of socialism in Poland.

[Bondar] Back in August the government advanced the idea of a "roundtable" at which representatives of the authorities and representatives of various sociopolitical organizations and movements, including the constructive opposition, would meet. Such a meeting has not yet taken place. True, grounds have appeared recently for speaking with restrained optimism of the prospect of a meeting. What chance do you see in a "roundtable" for changes in Poland?

[Orzechowski] The "roundtable" is a chance for the future of socialism in Poland. The broadening of the social base of power is extremely necessary for the country's development. The program of economic and political reforms and of the renewal of socialism and the search for its modern model accord with the interests of all working people but also require their active support.

We do not hide, nor do we wish to hide, the fact that in Poland confidence in the authorities, in the broad understanding of this word, and in socialism in its present form, is not very great today. At any rate, it is less than it was a few years ago. There are many reasons for this, and we have spoken about them repeatedly, notably at the 10th PZPR Central Committee Plenum. Of course, socialism must not be built without the support of society, still less in disregard of it.

The "roundtable" means a dialogue among representatives of all political forces, agreement with forces of the constructive opposition, and the creation of opportunities and a field of legal action for it within our country's political system. At the same time it also means a chance to attract considerable groups of the working class, the intelligentsia, and, above all, young people to the cause of socialism in its new, emergent form of modern, rational, humane, democratic, and pluralistic socialism.

[Bondar] The political report and the debate at the plenum, when speaking of the need for changes in the party, emphasized the importance of the obligatory personal responsibility of all party leaders at all levels for the cause. Do you mean political or judicial responsibility?

[Orzechowski] Political responsibility. Responsibility before the party, with all the ensuing organizational conclusions and moral consequences. Judicial responsibility before the Constitutional Tribunal specially set up several years ago applies exclusively to persons who hold high state posts. The question of **the constitutional responsibility of the party and its members** is also turning up in the debate on changes to Poland's political system. But that is a separate topic. In the debate on this we have not yet gotten beyond general assertions and declarations.

New Polish Politburo Membership Reported

PM2312120088 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent L. Toporkov report: "Composition of PZPR Central Committee Politburo Renewed"]

[Text] Warsaw—The 10th PZPR Central Committee Plenum, which has finished the first half of its work (the second half will be in January next year), is an event of enormous political importance in Poland's life. It examined the Central Committee Politburo theses on party reform as a condition of the success of the PZPR's strategy and the reforms being pursued in the republic.

Speaking at the plenum, W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, noted that it is taking place at a special time, a crucial time for the country. Poland is no longer what it was 10 years, 5 years, or even 1 year ago. Profound changes are taking place, expressing the new quality of the Polish people's life. In recent years the PZPR has followed a path of socialist renewal, carrying out a general restructuring in all spheres of life. At the same time, it was stressed at the plenum, the party's work style is still changing only slowly. The second stage of the economic reform is being implemented too sluggishly. The time has come for fundamental changes. Of what nature?

The party is resolutely discarding past stereotypes. Differences of opinions and views are regarded as a natural and useful thing. They enrich the party, rather than impoverishing it. There should be a critical reassessment, M. Orzechowski, secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, said in his report, of the party's place and role in the state and society, and also of the party's structure and methods of activity. The Politburo deems it necessary to separate political and executive power. A truly broad platform is being created for the development of democracy and of people's soviets at every level. Everything that it is customary to call the "vestiges of Stalinism" will be eliminated.

One peculiar feature of the Polish road to socialism, it was noted at the plenum, is the philosophy of national consensus, dialogue, and compromise. Here, naturally, there can be no place for anarchy or intolerance. The logic of the development of the mechanisms for the expression of various social interests and aspirations requires recognition of constructive internal opposition attitudes and an opposition as a component of the political system.

Economic problems held an important place in the plenum debate. The party, as W. Baka, secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, said, is setting a course of creating the conditions for the correct functioning of the market mechanism, taking the Polish economy into the world arena on a broad footing, and strengthening the financial system.

In short, it is a question of a resolute restructuring of the forms and methods of party activity in the conditions of the implementation of reform and of making its work more dynamic. Hence the increased demands on the party's leadership cadres.

The plenum deemed it necessary to make major changes in the composition of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, in view of the demands of the times. The following were elected Politburo members: S. Ciosek, K. Cypryniak, I. Lubowska, Z. Michalek, V. Pyrkosh [as transliterated], G. Rembisz, Ya. Reykovskiy [as transliterated], and Z. Swiatek; Central Committee secretaries: S. Ciosek, Z. Czarzasty, L. Miller, and M. Stempen [as transliterated]; candidate members of the Politburo: Z. Balicki, M. Holdakowski, and Z. Sobotka.

At a press conference in which the newly elected members of the PZPR Central Committee leadership took part, it was stressed that the 10th Central Committee plenum is a further step toward developing the theory and political practice of socialism in Poland.

East Germany's Schabowski Ends Moscow Visit
LD2312141388 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1305 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Moscow, (ADN)—A delegation of the Berlin SED Bezirk Organization headed by its first secretary, Guenter Schabowski, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee, concluded a working visit in Moscow on Friday.

During the day the SED delegation conducted a comprehensive exchange of experience and opinion in one of the 33 city areas of the Soviet capital. Guenter Schabowski underlined the close links between the Communists of the GDR and the USSR. He spoke in support of the further expansion and intensification of the multifaceted contacts between the party organizations of both capitals as well as between the individual SED kreis organizations and the CPSU raykoms. [passage omitted]

West Europe

Gorbachev To Visit Bonn 'Early' in 1989
LD2312115588 Hamburg DPA in German 1055 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The return visit by the Soviet head of state and party, Mikhail Gorbachev, to Bonn will be one of the main events in foreign policy of 1989, government spokesman Friedhelm Ost stated today. At the same time Ost narrowed down the date of the visit to "early in the year." Previously there had only been talk of the first half of 1989.

In his survey of foreign policy, Ost expressed the hope of further German-Soviet agreements, as well as the conclusion of a statement of basic principles by both states on the occasion of the visit. The unilateral disarmament announcements by Gorbachev are a good basis for further dialogue. A further point of emphasis for the coming year would have to be the steps necessary for the preparation of the single European market by the end of 1992, Ost said.

Gorbachev Holds Talks With DKP's Mies
PM2712114988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 88 Second Edition pp 1,4

[TASS report: "M.S. Gorbachev's Meeting With Herbert Mies"]

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev today met Herbert Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party [DKP], at the CPSU Central Committee. Present at the meeting were Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Schroeder, member of the Presidium and of the Secretariat of the DKP Board; and F. Noll, member of the Secretariat of the DKP Board.

Welcoming Herbert Mies and his comrades, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said that he was happy to meet old friends. We value our traditional relations of friendship with the fraternal German Communist Party. Comrades Gorbachev and Mies exchanged opinions on a broad scale concerning key problems of our time.

In launching restructuring, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said, we are striving first and foremost to open up the full potential of socialism, and to impart a new dynamism to it at the current historical stage. To this end we have needed profound dialectical interpretation of the processes going on in the country and in the world as a whole and the elaboration of policies which are equal to the need. Socialism is developing not in a vacuum, but in real, specific historical conditions, and Communists, rightly calling themselves expressers of vital interests of the working class and of all working people, must—through the interpretation of the new realities connected with the rapid development of the scientific-technological revolution, the changes in the structure of the working class in the developed countries, and the emergence of global problems—arrive at serious and well-founded conclusions about the strategy of our movement at this watershed stage of world development.

Comrades Gorbachev and Mies were unanimous that such an analysis is needed by every party, by the whole communist movement, and by working people. Discussions are presently going on in the communist movement; this is a normal process. Communists cannot permit a lag to develop in their theroretical activities.

Much attention in their conversation was devoted to the new political thinking. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev noted that the problem of survival of mankind is currently coming to the fore. Of course, different sociopolitical, philosophical, and ideological systems exist in the world, but we live in one world. This is an interconnected and interdependent world in which common human interests are of priority importance; by no means does this run counter to the fact that every people has the inalienable right to choose its path of development.

Herbert Mies noted that restructuring is evoking immense interest in the very broadest strata of the population of the federal republic. It is an immense accomplishment that it is the Soviet Communists who have first of all fiexed the attention of the whole world upon themselves, and have then got this world moving, and opened the hope for a peaceful future to mankind. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's UN speech, Herbert Mies said, provided fresh impetus for the process of relaxation of international tension.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev described the present stage of restructuring as a complicated and extremely responsible one. This is a great and crucial time. Comrade Gorbachev said that Lenin's thought that, in periods of revolutionary development, in weeks and months, the masses cover a path equal to decades is fully applicable to the current restructuring.

Of course, the process of restructuring is not running smoothly but it is gaining strength day by day, acquiring the nature of a movement of the whole people. Via economic reform, via the reform of the political system, democratization and glasnost, we are striving to put in motion the thoughts, the initiative and the social activity of the people.

After going through the melting pot of restructuring, a qualitatively new society is arising. We are convinced that our society possesses the material and spiritual prerequisites to reach the aims of restructuring.

Concluding the meeting, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev wished the Communists of the FRG success in holding their routine, ninth party congress. The meeting pased in an atmosphere of mutual comradely respect and deep mutual understanding, characteristic for relations between the two parties.

Mies on Talks, Restructuring

LD2612152688 Hamburg DPA in German 1510 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Moscow (DPA)—Herbert Mies, chairman of the DKP [German Communist Party], had talks today with Mikhail Gorbachev, head of the Soviet state and party. "The DKP never had problems with the new restructuring course," said Mies to the press after the talk described by him as "friendly and personal without any differences of opinion with my friend Mikhail" in Moscow. [passage omitted]

The meeting with the chairman of the DKP was Gorbachev's first public appearance since his visit 2 weeks ago to the Armenian earthquake area.

Mies Briefs Journalists

LD2612182588 Moscow TASS in English 1633 GMT 26 DEC 88

[Text] Moscow December 26 TASS - Herbert Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party, has described as "very friendly" his meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow today. Mies, who is now staying here, spoke at a press conference following his meeting with the Soviet leader.

Herbert Mies reported that the aim of the GCP delegation's visit was to exchange opinions with the CPSU leadership on some of important issues. Staying in the Soviet Union, we naturally deemed it our duty to express our heart-felt sympathy to the Soviet people in connection with the disaster that has befallen it—the earthquake in Armenia. We are—and I wish to point it out emphatically—satisfied by the fact that the government and people of the FRG took such a concerned and concrete part in assisting the victims of the disaster, the GCP chairman said.

Another important topic, Herbert Mies went on to say, was Mikhail Gorbachev's U.N. speech and the large-scale peace initiatives he has put forward. The FRG Communists, like other political and public forces of the country—and this, incidentally, is also a manifestation of the novelty of the changed political situation—are unanimous in praising that speech which can, without exaggeration, be described as historic, the GCP chairman said.

Referring to the response of the FRG'S ruling circles to the peace initiatives put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, Herbert Mies said that in his opinion, the government of Helmut Kohl could well respond to them with concrete actions to lessen the war threat. Thus, the FRG government could give up plans to develop the sophisticated fighter-bomber of the nineties, to scrap plans to extend the period of service of Bundeswehr soldiers, to effect a 10 per cent cut in budget outlays for military purposes, and to contribute to a "zero solution" of the question of the shorter-range missiles in Europe.

In the course of the conversation with the Soviet leader, Herbert Mies went on to say, they also touched on Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the FRG due in the first half of next year, and on the contribution by West German Communists to the development of varied cooperation between the two countries.

Noting the tremendous influence exerted by the changes at work in the Soviet Union on the course of world development, the GCP chairman said that "there is no alternative to perestroyka...those who wish to see socialism become more attractive, must faovur perestroyka."

Herbert Mies and Fritz Noll and Karl-Heinz Schroder, members of the GCP leadership who took part in the press conference, told newsmen about preparations for the regular party congress due to open on January 6.

Genscher Calls Troop Cut Decision 'Significant'

LD2512113588 Moscow TASS in English 1127 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Bonn December 25 TASS—The measures on a unilateral reduction of Soviet Armed Forces and conventional armaments announced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are aimed at creating such defensive systems which should eventually deprive both sides of their capability of a surprise attack and large-scale offensive operations, said West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in an interview with Saar radio. He favoured the completion of the Vienna meeting at the beginning of the next year and drafting by it of a mandate for talks on cutting armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. This is quite necessary, he pointed out.

Calling the Soviet decision 'significant,' Genscher favoured further moves in this direction, noting that Western armed forces should also be cut considerably in future, below their present level. The minister also voiced support for talks on reducing small-range missiles. Such talks should become a component part of NATO's general concept on disarmament, he added.

The head of the West German foreign office pointed to the need for completing in 1989 the Geneva talks on full and universal prohibition of chemical weapons and for achieving by the USSR and the USA an understanding on a 50-per-cent cut in strategic offensive weapons. "We Europeans are also interested in this," he noted.

Vorontsov Meets Italian Leaders in Rome

Talks With Foreign Minister

LD2412203088 Moscow TASS in English 2021 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Rome December 24 TASS—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, who is visiting here, and Soviet ambassador to Italy Nikolay Lunkov held today a long talk with Italy's Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. The talks focused on the questions of settling regional conflicts.

Giulio Andreotti said Italy would facilitate in every way their settlement. This would be in line with the current general trend in international affairs.

Yuliy Vorontsov, who is ambassador to Afghanistan, held a news conference at the Soviet Embassy in Rome today, during which he replied to journalists' questions about the situation in Afghanistan and ways of peaceful political settlement in that country.

It was stressed that the Soviet Government, like the Government of Afghanistan, was firmly resolved to achieve peace in Afghanistan. Yuliy Vorontsov drew the attention of journalists to the large-scale initiatives on Afghanistan made by Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech at the U.N.

Meets Andreotti, Briefs Press

LD2512222888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2100 GMT 25 Dec 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Vorontsov, first deputy USSR foreign minister and USSR ambassador to Afghanistan, who is in Rome, has had a long conversation with Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti. The two discussed issues of the settlement of regional conflicts. At a news conference held at the USSR Embassy, Comrade Vorontsov replied to journalists' questions about the situation in Afghanistan abnd about the ways for a peaceful political settlement in that country.

It was stressed that the USSR Government, like the Government of Afghanistan, is resolutely oriented toward achieving peace in the Republic. Comrade Vorontsov drew the journalists' attention to the major scale initiatives on Afghanistan set forth by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in his UN speech. [video shows Vorontsov addressing journalists]

Trade Protocol Signed in Helsinki

LD2512121188 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 25 December reports on a protocol on trade exchanges for 1989 signed between Finland and the USSR in Helsinki. K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and Ilkka Suominen, Finnish minister of trade and industry, sign the protocol. Correspondent E. Anupyld says the protocol reflects the new approaches in the Soviet Union's foreign economic contacts. "For the first time the volume and range of all the types of commodities being supplied are not entered to the last figure." He says room has been left for dynamic trade maneuvering. "The traditional clearing method of exchange is being supplemented by new possibilities for currency-based trade."

The video shows brief interviews with Katushev and Suominen, who speak in praise of the realistic nature of the new protocol.

Turkish Official Holds Moscow Talks

Meets With Shevardnadze

LD2612172488 Moscow TASS in English 1706 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, today received Nazhet Kandemir, first deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Turkey, who arrived here on a visit.

A substantive and useful exchange of views was held on various matters of developing bilateral cooperation and also on international and regional issues of mutual interest.

Mutual conviction was expressed that there are all necessary pre-conditions now for raising Soviet-Turkish good-neighbourly relations, in the light of positive changes occurring in the world, to a higher level measuring up to both countries' interests.

The Soviet side called particular attention to basic provisions of Mikhail Gorbachev's U.N. speech and the proposals advanced in it, which aim to establish new state-to-state relations that can transform fundamentally the political and intellectual image of the world. It was stressed that a new quality of states' interaction was needed and that the Soviet initiatives for a unilateral reduction of armed forces in Europe and Asia actually created a totally new political climate for discussing disarmament issues.

The talk passed in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere, in the spirit of mutual understanding and frankness.

Talks With Bessmertnykh

TA2712114588 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Turkish-Soviet political consultation talks are continuing in Moscow. Ambassador Nuzhet Kandemir, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, met today with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the deputy minister of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Regional issues such as the Middle East conflict and the Iran-Iraq peace talks are the primary topics of discussion in today's meeting.

Kandemir and Bessmertnykh met yesterday and discussed in detail bilateral political, economic, cultural, and consular relations. The two sides decided to begin technical talks next month in Ankara on border trade between Turkey and Azerbaijan and Georgia in the wake of the opening of the Sarp border crossing. The two sides also decided to speed up work related to the signing of a cultural agreement and to begin fishing talks next February. [passage omitted]

Trade Agreement Signed With Greece

LD2312152288 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1415 GMT 23 Dec 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In Athens an agreement has been signed on the trade turnover between the USSR and Greece. It provides for a growth in mutual deliveries of goods and services, among them supplies of Soviet natural gas to Greece, the deliveries of which are to start after 1992. Within the framework of the agreement it has been established that part of the cost of the gas supplied by the USSR will be paid for in Greek export goods.

Latin America & Caribbean

Solis Reported Official Candidate in Panama

PA2512042788 Moscow in Spanish to Cuba 0200 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Continuing with Latin American topics, I would like to relay to you some of the items just transmitted by the news agencies.

The first is from Panama. Following all sorts of electoral gameplaying [jugadas de composicion electoralista], the question of who will be the official candidate in the elections scheduled for 7 May 1989 has been answered. The candidacy did not go to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, as the opposition and the U.S. State Department had predicted, but to Manuel Solis Palma, the minister in charge of the Presidency, which is his constitutional title.

Kiselev Delegation Returns From Colombia

PM2212152388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation Returns"]

[Text] On 21 December a CPSU delegation led by G.N. Kiselev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and second secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee, which took part in the work of the 15th Colombian Communist Party Congress, returned to Moscow.

Colombia To Buy Soviet Cars for Use as Taxis

PA2612163388 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0000 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The Colombian Government has decided to buy 500 Soviet-made cars, which will be used as taxis.

That decision is part of the Colombian Government's desire to expand trade relations with the USSR.

The Soviet Union will buy coffee and bananas from Colombia.

Political & Social

'Reorganization' in Forces, KGB Planned

PM2312162388 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 20 Dec 88 p 10

[Harald Hamrin dispatch: "Reports in Soviet Union: New Ministry To Take Over the Military"]

[Text] Moscow—A thorough reorganization of the highest leadership of the Soviet Union's military forces, Internal Troops, and the KGB "secret police" is being planned. The current secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, Oleg Baklanov, will be placed at the head of a new "ministry for the armed forces," Soviet sources have told DAGENS NYHETER.

However, it will be some time before the reorganization takes place. The timetable for the changes has already been partially upset as a result of the earthquake in Armenia, which has forced the country's highest leadership to devote a great deal of time to organizing the rescue and reconstruction work after the catastrophe. It is possible that the new defense organization will be announced in February next year.

Reports of a new, civilian defense minister have been circulating in Moscow for some time. In its 8 December edition DAGENS NYHETER was able to pass on reports of a decision in principle adopted by the ruling Politburo at a meeting 1 December. According to this decision, current Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov would be instructed to prepare to hand over his "portfolio" to Baklanov.

The changeover at the Defense Ministry had been intended to take place at some point after party chief and President Mikhail Gorbachev's return from New York, Havana, and London, which had been scheduled for 14 December. This has been impossible because the earthquake catastrophe in Armenia has taken up all the time of Gorbachev and the other members of the highest leadership.

According to new reports to DAGENS NYHETER, however, it is not simply a matter of replacing Yazov with Baklanov as head of the Defense Ministry. A major reorganization of the leadership of all military and paramilitary forces in the Soviet Union is being planned.

Central Committee Secretary Baklanov, 56—who is thus a "civilian," but who has devoted himself to defense and defense industry issues for the greater part of his professional life—will become head of a new "ministry for the armed forces," according to Soviet sources. This ministry will have control over personnel taken from three separate ministries:

The present Defense Ministry, which embraces the Soviet Union's regular military forces. So far it is unclear whether the Defense Ministry in its present form will be completely dissolved or whether it will be subordinated to a new "superministry." It is also unclear whether in such a situation Yazov will remain in a reformed defense minister post under Baklanov, be given a completely different post, or be retained in the leadership of the purely military defense forces and be given a different, more "military" title.

The Interior Ministry, which has jurisdiction over the so-called Internal Troops, as well as the criminal police and traffic police. The Internal Troops, which are used among other things to maintain order within the country (for example, in connection with the state of emergency in Armenia and Azerbaijan), are equipped with both tanks and armored vehicles. According to DAGENS NYHETER's sources, the Internal Troops will be transferred to the new ministry under Baklanov, as a result of which the Interior Ministry will be turned into an exclusively "police ministry."

The KGB, or the Committee for State Security (with the status of a ministry), which today has a number of functions both at home and abroad. The KGB too has its troops, including border troops, with heavy equipment such as tanks, armored vehicles, and artillery. Like the Internal Troops these would be transferred to Baklanov's new ministry. The main role of the slimmed-down and reformed KGB would be reminiscent of that of the American CIA, that is, mainly intelligence operations and counterespionage.

In this context observers in Moscow are attaching great importance to the choice of the new KGB chief this fall. At a Central Committee meeting 30 September the then KGB chief, Viktor Chebrikov, was appointed Central Committee secretary and he left the KGB the following day. At the same time 63-year-old Vladimir Kryuchkov, who had been one of the KGB's seven deputy chairmen, was appointed the new head of the KGB. In this career leap he not only "leapfrogged" the other six deputy chairmen, but also overtook two KGB first deputy chiefs.

What is interesting in the present context is that in his previous post Kryuchkov was for 10 years responsible precisely for the intelligence service abroad, that is, the activities which, according to DAGENS NYHETER's sources, will be at the center of the "new" KGB's activities.

It is unclear what will happen to the KGB's notorious role of maintaining surveillance over political dissidents. It is also possible that this role will be taken away from the KGB and be transferred to the Interior Ministry, or the "police ministry." Such a reform would be in line with the growing emphasis being placed in the legal debate on the need to build a "society based on law."

Two of the paragraphs in the Soviet criminal code—those which deal with anti-Soviet propaganda and anti-Soviet activities—will also be rewritten or will disappear completely from the new law currently being drafted.

If DAGENS NYHETER's information is correct, this new system of organization will mean that the civilian and political control of the Soviet Union's military and paramilitary forces will be strengthened. Neither the new KGB chief nor the new interior minister, Vadim Bakatin, are members or candidate members of the ruling Politburo. It is true that present Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov is a candidate member of the Politburo, but his continued membership is uncertain if and when Baklanov takes over the post of defense minister or minister for the Armed Forces.

Nominations for People's Deputies Begin

LD2612134388 Moscow TASS in English
1332 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—By TASS commentator Igor Yefimov:

Nomination of candidates to the Congress of People's Deputies began in the USSR today. The elections will be held on March 26, 1989, three months from today.

The current election campaign is based on the amended Constitution of the country and on the new electoral law. These documents, altering the Soviet political system substantially, pursue the purpose of restoring the essential meaning of the word "elections". In other words, the elections, largely reduced to a mere formality in the past, are to become an exacting instrument for selecting people to the supreme organ of state power. This, moreover, is to be done by the electorate themselves.

Basically new procedures are envisaged at all stages of the election campaign. The organisation of elections is now fully within the competence of public bodies—the election commissions. The approach to the nomination of candidates has also changed cardinally.

It ought to be admitted that previously deputies were slated in top echelons according to social status, age and even sex. Therefore, nobody was surprised when a plant was instructed, for instance, to nominate as candidate a woman aged up to 30 and employed as a worker. Despite this rigid reglamentation the nominees were usually highly respected personalities, of course. But this, without doubt, imposed definite limits on the electorate.

The new law has removed all possibilities of such outside interference. Any person has the right to offer his own candidature, too. A candidate is nominated if more than a half of the meeting participants vote for him. Nomination of candidates can be carried out both by open and secret ballot. This is up to the meeting itself.

The new election law contains one more basically new provision: a third of the people's deputies of the USSR, representing the principal public organisations of the country, will be elected directly by these organisations themselves (the remaining two-thirds—in the usual way, that is in territorial and national-territorial election districts). This is why parallel with the nomination of candidates at places of work and residence, the CPSU, trade unions, women's, youth, veterans' organisations, creative unions and other all-union associations have also started to nominate their own candidates to the congress.

The nomination of candidates will last one month. Then the election commissions will start registering them. This time span is needed to prevent one and the same popular person from being nominated in several districts simultaneously, because the law envisages nomination from only one district or one public organisation. It may happen that a member of one of the election commissions will be nominated candidate. Then, in accordance with the law in force, he will have to be released of his duties in the commission. In a word, the law has to be observed.

The names of the first nominees have become known. In Leningrad, for instance, the Admiralty plant discussed eight candidates. Finally, the vote was cast for Assemblyman Yuriy Tesakov, who is regarded as an active champion of the economic reform. In Murmansk the Women's Council of one of the urban districts nominated Margarita Molodtsova, an initiator of many meetings and demonstrations in support of disarmament.

Some one hundred names of nominated candidates became known in the country at the end of the first day of the campaign. All in all, the new organ of supreme power of the USSR—the Congress of People's Deputies—will consist of 2,250 members.

Gorbachev, Other Leaders Nominated

LD2712070688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0000 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] The election campaign of the USSR people's deputies has been unfolding as a consolidation of all strata of the Soviet people in their struggle for restructuring. It represents a totally new phenomenon in our social and political life. The elections are being held on a basis which is new in principle and creates conditions for truly demonstrating the electorate's will. An important stage of the campaign started on 26 December. Nomination of candidates for USSR people's deputies began. The discussion of candidates to be nominated for USSR people's deputies continues in the country's grassroot public organizations. Leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet state are gaining support there.

Thus, Communists of the Ashkhabad association for consumer goods production tabled a motion at an open party meeting to nominate Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev as a candidate for USSR people's deputy from the CPSU. The motion was unanimously seconded by all those who attended the meeting. Communists of the Truzhenits factory in Yoshkar-Ola suggested that Ligachev, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, be recommended as a candidate for USSR people's deputy from the CPSU. At a party meeting at the Mari 50 Years of the USSR Kontakt Works, a proposal was endorsed to recommend Vorotnikov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo and RSFSR Supreme Soviet President and chairman as candidate to the USSR people's deputies from the CPSU.

Shcherbitskiy Candidate for Deputy

LD2412225288 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] It was decided at the initial opening of the party meeting in the commercial seaport of Odessa to approve the proposal to nominate Comrade Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee; and Comrade (Tymun), team leader of machine-operator longshoremen, member of the Odessa Communist Party City Committee Bureau, and hero of socialist labor, as candidates for people's deputies of the USSR from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Sakharov, Intellectuals Visit Azerbaijan

NC2312171388 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] A group of intellectuals from Moscow including Academician Sakharov have visited Azerbaijan to study interethnic problems. They held talks with the representatives of the republic's intellectuals, Azerbaijanis who moved from Armenia to Azerbaijan, and Armenians who [words indistinct] on the ways of resolving the current problems, including the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh [NKAO].

Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, received the visiting intellectuals. He briefed them on the situation in the republic, the (?problems) of Azerbaijanis who left their places of permanent residence in Armenia and moved to Azerbaijan, and the way in which the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers decision on the NKAO's social and economic development is being realized.

It was pointed out that the essence of the NKAO problem has created tragic results, including the loss of life.

Meanwhile, the importance of the decision that the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted in mid-July was noted as a point of principle.

Article Condemns Fomenters of Ethnic Strife

PM2612123188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 88 Second Edition p 4

[Unattributed article: "To Serve the True Interests of the People. To Whom the Destabilization of the Situation and the Inflaming of Interethnic Strife Are Necessary"; footnote states: "The article is reprinted with slight abbreviations from the republican press of Azerbaijan—KOMMUNIST (in Azeri), BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY (in Russian), and KOMMUNIST (in Armenian)"]

[Text] Lenin Square is empty; for each citizen of the republic it is the main square, personifying in his patriotic consciousness the excited joy and enthusiasm of national festivities and the fraternal cohesion of the capital's multinational population. At this time one cannot believe that passions, tempestuous debates, and emotional outbursts were raging here recently.

Some people came here to express their indignation at the excesses of the extremists in NKAO [Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast] and the connivance of the oblast leadership; others, themselves in a state of excitement, came in order to inflame nationalist frenzy in people's minds and hearts, to play on the heightened feelings of people worn out by days and days of rallies lasting late into the night in the square; yet others came to exploit the flood tide of elemental emotions and anger to divert the people's attention and efforts away from the vital tasks of restructuring, which promises the inexorable fall of the dark underground kingdom of political intriguers, slick operators and scroungers, speculators, and the declasse rabble.

Appeals rang out over the square: to stem the excesses against Soviet power and against the internationalism traditional of Baku and Azerbaijan and the entire Transcaucasus; there were also slogans which were overtly unlawful and alien to the spirit of socialist internationalism. The sober, reasonable voices were frequently drowned in the hysterical howls of immature, irresponsible individuals.

Today the situation in Baku and the republic is stabilizing. This is borne out by the duly required functioning of industrial enterprises, construction sites, and transport; the resumption of the normal course of the educational process at VUZ's, technical colleges, and schools; and the return to Azerbaijan, to their own homes, of thousands of Armenians. In order to more rapidly make up for the laggardness caused by the rallies and absenteeism, many labor collectives are working Saturdays and Sundays.

An ever increasing number of people—those who initially, without investigating what was really going on, ended up being led by the imaginary champions of the popular interest—are seeing the light.

For a long time yet we will be interpreting what occurred, reaping and surmounting the political and moral costs of events which disrupted the republic's normal labor rhythm and our creative life. But even today we must not postpone our analysis of what happened, our investigation of how everything began, what led us to the brink of danger, by whom, how, and in the name of what the situation was inflamed. The unhealthy speculation around Nagorno-Karabakh, the unsanctioned rallies and demonstrations, the debauchery of the hooligan groups which at times went as far as physical reprisals and encroachments on the honor and dignity of the individual, the blackmail, the threats, and the recourse to arms—all this demonstrated the presence in Azerbaijan and Armenia of serious antirestructuring forces and laid bare the scale and acuteness of their opposition to the party's restructuring course.

The ill-assorted social, antisocietal elements—the bearers of petit-bourgeois ideology, of philistine, narrow-minded, and anarchist morality, who worship the golden calf of gain and enrichment, the big shots of the "black economy" and the corrupt clans—all these united in a firm alliance on the general antirevolutionary foundation of the political, economic, social, and ideological-moral sabotage of restructuring. One of the effective methods employed by this bloc is the transfer of the masses' activeness from the sphere of useful activity to the channel of nationalist ambitions and interethnic clashes.

It is characteristic that the events in and around Nagorno-Karabakh served as the starting point for the realization of the antirestructuring forces' program. As M.S. Gorbachev rightly emphasized in his interview for correspondents of central television and Armenian television, the Karabakh theme is being exploited by political demagogues, adventurists, and unscrupulous people, and, what is more, by a corrupted public. These people can see that restructuring is under way, it is reaching Armenia and Azerbaijan; the leadership is changing, it is taking up restructuring stances. This means that a situation is approaching wherein a blow will be dealt to this entire parasitic public. Karabakh has long been unnecessary to it, Mikhail Sergeyevich said; Karabakh has never concerned it. It is waging a struggle for power, it needs to preserve its power.

In the fight to preserve their power and influence the opponents of restructuring, who have wormed their way into many positions, woven a single nest with the bosses of the "black economy," and have become accustomed to living a life of ease at the expense of the people of labor, do not disdain any vile means. What do they care about the peoples' sufferings, the family tragedies, the pain of the refugees, the stoppages in the work of the economic mechanism?! They are well aware of the grave consequences of playing on national feelings. The challenge was issued—both in Armenia and in Azerbaijan—under surprisingly similar slogans containing demands in which so much was identical, as if sung by a single voice. The events in Yerevan's Theater Square and Baku's V.I. Lenin Square, moving out from them in circles to embrace region upon region, at times unfolded as though in accordance with a general, jointly conceived, carefully coordinated scenario.

In these events can be traced a well-organized system of disseminating all possible fabrications and rumors with the blatant aim of getting people worked up, confusing them, and achieving the further heightening of passions. Here can be divined the well-known handwriting of forces which in past years have implanted fear and alienation.

Just which individuals lorded it over the square in Baku, what ideas did they use to turn the heads of the crowd? Leadership of the rallies was very swiftly seized by one Neymat Panakhov, registered as a lathe operator at the machine-building plant named for Leytenant Shmidt. He impressed a sizeable segment of those assembled: In his very first utterances a worker from a reputable major enterprise declared himself an ardent supporter of the revolutionary transformations, of restructuring. He speaks from the platform without the aid of notes, he tries to find a like-minded soul in each member of his audience. And few would guess that the passionate champion of "renewal," the "frenzied" Neymat, is a figurehead, the expresser of the opinion and transmitter of the goals of the antirestructuring forces, the corrupt clans, those who yearn to once again be the bosses in the republic, who see it as their own personal estate.

The speeches of N. Panakhov, firebrand and dangerous demagogue, are resonant with appeals and slogans which cannot fail to provoke indignation in honest working people, the Azerbaijani people. Here we find a "bouquet" of slanderous passages directed against the soldiers, the sons of the Soviet people who at the risk of their own lives came to the defense of the working people's honor, dignity, and lives; of base manipulations of fabrications concerning the Soviet state's nationalities policy; of calls to withdraw from the USSR. And this hysterical type masquerading as the "hero" of the ancient epic sagas became intoxicated with his own commands: "We are not afraid of freezing to death on the square. We will cut down all the trees growing around the square, we will set fire to Government House and warm ourselves!" And this was spoken by the man who got indignant at the felling of trees in Topkhana.

Panakhov was frequently alternated on the platform with one Gatami, an obscurantist and reactionary who urges people to return to the depth of the Middle Ages. He has always been noted for his spitefulness and aggressiveness. Gatami has frequently been cautioned, he has promised that he will restrain himself, but he has again acted as the frenzied instigator of disorders and the preacher of national strife. These people found not only emotional support from the crowd. There was a special stall on the square where money was accepted allegedly for the rally participants. Machine-duplicated vouchers were issued. I. Alekperov alone, chief of the organizational department of Kedabekskiy rayispolkom, after obtaining the appropriate voucher, delivered here large sums of money collected from more than 70 enterprises and organizations in the rayon.

When speaking about the role of the antirestructuring forces in adding a sinister complexion to unauthorized rallies and demonstrations, it is necessary to note the high level of their organization, planning, cohesion, and extensive use of opportunities to win over unstable, backward, unbridled, and parasitic elements. The instigators of antisocial actions are essentially representatives of criminal clans which are linked by bonds of mutual support and mutual assistance. In other words, what we are dealing with here is a kind of mafia, a form of organized crime.

It is no secret that frequently the homespun "mafiosi" use ethnic hostility as a screen to cover up their evil doings. A highly indicative example is the case of Manucharov, who was exposed as an inveterate criminal steeped in corruption, a double-dyed nationalist, who enriched himself by exploiting the grief of ordinary working people. Another graphic example is that of the mafia in Sheki which, kindling nationalist passions, organized armed attacks on the militia and prosecutor's office organs in order to seize incriminating documents when it was threatened with exposure for large-scale embezzlement and other grave crimes.

It remains to be clarified for what purpose firearms and munitions were stored in the cellars of the Baku "Detskiy Mir" ["Children's World"] department store and in the homes of the extra-departmental security guards. With every passing day these facts are throwing more and more light on the cunning and perfidious plan of criminal elements which are using destabilization and the tense situation in order to escape from the crushing blow of the legal authorities.

Large-scale forces of the all-union prosecutor's office—more than 100 experienced investigators and operational staff from all over the country—were mobilized to investigate criminal cases following the February events in Sumgait. Quite a few specialists were forced to leave behind what they were doing to come to work in Stepanakert and Yerevan. The new flareup of actions by extremist and hooligan elements coincided with the work in both republics of special groups of investigators who uncovered the threads leading to the mafia's brain center, a representative of the USSR Prosecutor's Office investigation department has said. However, instead of unravelling this web, highly qualified legal experts are forced to investigate the fights, robberies, and pogroms which took place during the unauthorized rallies.

Nonetheless, the mafia is not destined "to call the tune." It has caused considerable damage, but it is bound to be defeated because it has been condemned by the people themselves. The enemies of restructuring, double-dyed nationalists, and extremists of all hues are wrong if they think that the army which they have gathered and inspired can hold its ground, or try and launch a revenge operation. The offensive against the criminal forces is constantly gathering strength, its nationwide front is expanding. No one who has perpetrated evil deeds or sought to destroy our socialist gains will escape responsibility.

Bureaucratic administrators, the product of the years of stagnation, who cling to their privilages and the conservative administrative-edict methods of leadership to which they have grown used to, are essentially aligning themselves with the antirestructuring forces. In the critical situation, certain cadres have failed the test of party-mindedness, civic spirit, courage, and political maturity, and in some cases even elementary human decency. Some comrades have displayed indecision and timidity. At the first signs of the unrest, A. Radzhabov, first secretary of the Sheki party gorkom, failed to get the situation under control, and subsequently he fled ignominiously. Nakhichevan ASSR and Kirovabad party organization leaders did not prove up to their jobs either. In Kirovabad a military patrol detained the party raykom first secretary rushing from Kedabek to Baku. He stopped only after shots had been fired at his car. A large sum of money in excess of his salary for many years was discovered on him.

We know that during the most difficult period most of the republic's enterprises were working without interruption and that their labor collectives resolutely rejected extremist demands and prevented dismissals of Armenians. However, there were also many leaders who revealed their unscrupulousness, ideological bankruptcy, and the shakiness of their moral positions.

In Baku alone, 213 Communists, including 130 leaders, have already had to answer to the party for unlawful actions including negative phenomena of an interethnic nature, and 13 people have been expelled from the party. Disciplinary measures have been taken against 715 people, including 138 leaders; 121 people have been dismissed.

A considerable section of law enforcement organ workers also displayed indecision, confusion, and failure to keep up with events. These organs are now called upon to guard the rule of law, order, and citizens' safety, and to rid themselves of morally bankrupt people and colleagues who have compromised theselves. A reinforcement of various components of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the KGB, and court and prosecutor's office organs is under way, and measures are being taken to strengthen and improve the activities of people's squads.

A certain section of the intelligentsia has also proved very remote from the people's true interests, claiming a monopoly position in science and culture, unable to cast off moss-grown dogmas on which their dissertations and pseudoscientific works were based, and unwilling to give up traditionally high salaries paid for work with zero national economic or ideological returns. Professional and general cultural narrow-mindedness often goes hand in hand with conceited elitism, which frequently turns into national arrogance.

It cannot be regarded as fortuitous that during the aforementioned rallies N. Panakhov—the self-appointed "representative of the working class"—was joined on the rostrum in V.I. Lenin Square by heralds of "topical truths" including representatives of the intelligentsia. These people, who regard themselves as the exponents of the thoughts and aspirations of the people and describe themselves as the "conscience of the people," have, wittingly or unwittingly, by their name and prestige strengthened the positions of the firebrands and the organizers of the unrest who are behind them. The speeches and pretentious conclusions of certain cultural figures quite often struck the same cord as the inflammatory appeals of the Armenian extremists.

Do certain members of the intelligentsia accept direct or indirect responsibility for the emotional outbursts and acts of hooliganism and even vandalism which occurred on 5 December? Did they not look on indifferently as unbridled groups of youths smashed windows in stores and houses, overturned cars and set fire to them, and beat up taxi and bus drivers and passengers?! Among these hooligans there were also the so-called "hunger-strikers" who were camping out on the square earlier in special tents.

The stance of a section of the intelligentsia which is called upon to act as the spiritual mentor of the people, a stance expressed in the appeal from the general meeting of the republic Academy of Sciences to the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, and the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet also evokes puzzlement and resolute condemnation. On the one hand, the scientists profess in their appeal "profound concern in connection with the development of events in Azerbaijan and Armenia which are turning into a serious contradiction on the path of revolutionary restructuring and inflicting tremendous damage on interethnic relations and our country's international prestige."

At the same time many of the demands are essentially unconstructive and out of touch with today's realities. The one-sided approach toward assessing the actions of the antirestructuring forces that are inflaming interethnic strife is also characteristic. While criticizing the extremists operating in Armenia and the NKAO, the appeal "tactfully," or, to be more exact, unscrupulously, evades the issue of the equally great guilt of the sowers of nationalist passions in Azerbaijan.

Similar immaturity also marks the resolution of the 18th party conference of the republic's Academy of Sciences, a resolution which displays the ideological immaturity of certain Communists who are called on to bear the moral and political responsibility for ensuring a healthy atmosphere in the scientists collective.

The fallacious position inevitably descended to the point of absurdity in the speeches of certain participants in the unsanctioned rallies in Baku, who raised in terms tantamount to an ultimatum the question of depriving Nagorno-Karabakh of the status of an autonomous oblast. This demand essentially directly merged with the destructive slogans of the illegal "Karabakh" organization.

Probably the most destructive consequence of the unsanctioned rallies and demonstrations in Azerbaijan and Armenia and of the appreciable influence exerted by antirestructuring forces on them was the involvement of schoolchildren, pupils from vocational and technical schools, and students in these pernicious "events." The extremists try to nurture seeds of nationalism, interethnic strife, and ideological, legal, and moral distortion in the impressionable hearts of children and young people and to encourage them to act recklessly. It is terrible to think of the scale of this sabotage of the traditions of internationalism in which our young people have lived and been raised; it is terrible to think of the depth to which the malignant infection of nationalism has penetrated, contaminating the mentality, morality and feelings of the generation on which we pin all our hopes and which we hope will be our worthy successors and continuers of the cause of October called upon to take up the baton of the restructuring that is being implemented today.

In the prevailing acute situation the responsibility of the media of mass news and propaganda, whose banner must be the greatest party principledness, is extremely high. It should bluntly be said that television and radio broadcasting and certain newspapers proved unequal to the tasks facing them, often failing to provide truthful information about events in the region and subscribing to tactics of deliberate silence and of lulling people with routine, high sounding phrases from the propaganda arsenal of the stagnation period and with passionless general calls for the strengthening of the peoples' friendship and cohesion. Newspapers and radio and television programs carried material that disoriented the population and demonstrated the political immaturity both of the interviewees and persons given air time and of the authors of the programs and dispatches themselves. These serious miscalculations did not facilitate but counteracted the alleviation of tension and weakened the rebuff to the antirestructuring forces, which had become more active.

A number of programs on republican television and radio were the fruit of political thoughtlessness and careless shortsightedness. The relaying without comment or assessment of a rally at which inflammatory slogans were voiced was a most blatant mistake.

Nor did the youth-oriented press organs of the republican Komsomol Central Committee play their role as educator of the rising generation in the complex situation.

The Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee examined the question of serious shortcomings in the work of the republic's mass news media. It was noted that there were deviations from a considered and sober position, and a number of publications promoted the fueling of passions and exacerbation of the situtio. The newspaper MOLODEZH AZERBAYDZHANA gave space in its pages to unworthy authors who made irresponsible, dangerous statements. The newspaper AZERBAYDZHAN PIONERI published a report calling on schoolchildren to take part in unsanctioned rallies.

The speeches of certain cultural figures on television and radio were of an ideologically harmful, opportunist [konyunkturnyy] nature, and certain television and radio programs essentially supported the ultimatums voiced at unsanctioned rallies.

A number of sectorial and plant newspapers made gross mistakes.

N. Nadzhafov, editor of MOLODEZH AZERBAYDZHANA, has been strictly reprimanded and has had his record endorsed for publishing politically erroneous materials and tendentiously covering events. He has been relieved of his post. Strict party penalties have also been imposed on A. Balayev, editor of AZERBAYDZHAN PIONERI, E. Kuliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, and F. Tariverdiyev and A. Babayev, his deputies.

A militant action program for the country's Communists and working people is provided in the decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference and the resolutions of CPSU Central Committee plenums. The party and government decisions aimed at accelerating the socioeconomic development of NKAO are of paramount importance for eliminating the consequences of the complex situation prevailing in Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The speeches of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at the session of the Presidium of the country's supreme organ of state power, at the meeting at the CPSU Central Committee with USSR Supreme Soviet deputies from Azerbaijan and Armenia, at the conferences in the Armenian SSR, and in the interview with correspondents of central television and Armenian television contain a tremendous force of inspiring and organizing influence. The activity of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission on eliminating the consequences of the earthquake, which is headed by N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, is imbued with professionalism, resolve, efficiency, and great humanism.

A resolute turn toward the road of restructuring is now taking place in the activity of Azerbaijan's party organization and the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee. The republic's party committees and organizations and its Communists are increasingly directing their efforts toward overcoming the negative processes and distortions and the resistance of conservative elements, which are seeking to prevent or slow the renewal of the republic's economic, social, and spiritual life and toward ensuring that the republic scales advanced heights of social progress.

The style of the activity of party committees, the soviets of people's deputies, and social organizations is changing and is being filled with new content. Following Leninist traditions, the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's party organizations are seeking in their work to rely on the masses' experience, to take into account public opinion and the advice of specialists and party, war, and labor veterans, and to make extensive use of the effective instrument of glasnost. Meetings at party committees with the personnel of various sectors of the economy and culture have become traditional. Conferences and meetings with leading industrial and agricultural workers, scientists and public education workers, young people, the women's aktiv, literary figures and artists, and the mass media have been held at the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee. Regular meetings of members of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Bureau and leaders of republican departments and organizations in cities, rayons, and labor collectives are discussing topical questions of the republic's life and outlining the best ways of solving current and long-term tasks.

A course has been adopted of resolutely renewing the cadre corps, destroying the existing clans, and getting rid of persons who do not deserve to occupy their posts, oppose restructuring, have lost prestige and trust among the masses, and have sullied themselves by immoral actions.

The main theses of the concept for the socioeconomic development of the republic put forward by the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee are aimed at achieving strategic tasks and goals.

The "housing" comprehensive program is aimed at solving the most acute problem—that of housing. A "health" program is being formulated, and a package of measures to radically improve the ecological situation is being implemented.

An important sphere of activity is the spiritual renewal of the people and the affirmation of high culture and pure moral principles. The republic's party and state organs are implementing specific measures aimed at developing the Azeri language, literature, and art and progressive popular traditions, customs, and festivals.

While showing concern for the Azeri language, party and soviet organs pay constant attention to developing national-Russian bilingualism. Measures are being taken in the republic to improve work aimed and ensuring that the broad working people's masses master the Russian language—an important means of interethnic communication and of mutual enrichment of the peoples with cultural achievements and the values of general Soviet and world culture.

A most important task today is to step up the attention paid to problems of national development and culture in interethnic contacts and to patriotic and international education. It can no longer be a question of merely "improving" or "ameliorating" international education, which has been afflicted by oversimplification and bureaucracy for many years. It must be a question only of raising this important sphere of the party's ideological activity to a qualitatively new height. Particular concern should be shown for eliminating the damage caused to young people's internationalist consciousness by the irresponsible actions and lying sermons of "champions of national interests." It is necessary to adopt and utilize in every way the international traditions in which the history of Azerbaijan's party organization, working class, and working people is so rich, to revive them, and to give them new expression in the spirit of the tasks and demands of the strategy of restructuring.

There can be no doubt that the republic's Communists and citizens will face up to this vital summons of the present day, which is called upon to leave a powerful imprint on the future. It is our patriotic duty to cherish and augment everything that serves to rally Soviet society as foundations of the free development and prosperity of all the USSR's peoples and to strengthen the might of our common socialist homeland. Our present and future lie within the unity of Soviet peoples.

Security Agencies Discuss Armenia, Azerbaijan

LD2312214988 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1935 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, 23 Dec (TASS)—A conference of leading workers of the procuracy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Committee for State Security has taken place at the USSR procuracy. Questions pertaining to strengthening law and order, public security, and socialist legality in the Armenian and Azerbaijani union republics were examined. It is known that in these regions extremist, nationalistic, and corrupt elements have used interethnic tension to provoke mass disorders. These led to pogroms, arson, acts of violence, and bloodshed and have caused floods of refugees.

Some stabilization of the situation has been noted as a result of consistent actions by the CPSU Central Committee and the government, as well as the efforts of local authorities. Recently, the law-and-order agencies have thwarted many attempts to incite interethnic enmity, to provoke disorders, and to spread malevolent rumors. A considerable number of the crimes, including premeditated murders, have been solved. Those who committed them have been arrested. More than 30 cases have been sent to the courts. Violations of the law on national equality are being investigated.

Working people are participating more and more actively in curbing the extremists and hooligan elements who have lost all restraint.

Nevertheless, the situation in the republics remains complex. Violence, looting, and instigatory calls for encroachment on the rights of citizens for ethnic reasons, and calls for insubordination are still occuring. The cynical actions of individual renegades who have stooped to theft and looting in the disaster areas arouse particular indignation from the public.

Law enforcement workers sometimes display indecisiveness in stopping acts of lawlessness and in exposing extremists and other criminal elements who play on people's national feelings for their own self-seeking purposes. A sharp assessment has been made of the position of such workers and the necessary organizational and cadre conclusions have been made.

Coordinated actions by the law enforcement agencies in preventing and putting a stop to antisocial actions that are being provoked have been defined. Particular attention has been given to the need for a keen and attentive attitude toward the warnings and statements of citizens who have been forced to leave their homes because of the whipping up of national discord, direct threats, and oppression. The task of ensuring a sharp juridical response in each case where hostility between the nationalities is kindled and where people are forced into antisocial actions which disrupt production and normal life in towns and populated centers has been brought to the forefront. The entire force of the law must be used to eradicate illegal dismissals and other violations of citizens' constitutional rights. Instances of crimes and provocative activity by extremist and corrupt elements and the moral and material damage that they have inflicted must be made public and receive social condemnation.

It was stressed that all actions to establish proper public order in the Azerbaijan SSR and the Armenian SSR must be carried out in close cooperation with the labor collectives, with strictest observance of socialist legality and a high level of responsibility on the part of every worker of the law enforcement agencies for the impeccable execution of their duties.

Three Appointed to New Positions in Azerbaijan

NC2712075088 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0440 GMT 27 Dec 88

[From the republican press review]

[Text] In accordance with the decrees issued by the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, Nizami Imran-Oglu Abdullayev has been appointed as first deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers Presidium and chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR

State Agroindustrial Committee, Lidiya Khudat Kyzy Rasulova as minister of social security of Azerbaijan SSR, and Polat (?Vugul-oglu) as minister of culture of Azerbaijan SSR.

The newspapers published brief biographies of Abdullayev, Rasulova, and (?Vurgul-oglu) on their front pages.

Continuing Reportage on Quake Relief

Armenian Leaders Discuss Tasks

LD2312171288 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Yerevan December 23 TASS—A conference at the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia on Friday discussed the activities of party committees and local governing councils dealing with the effects of the recent earthquake, priority measures to improve interethnic relations in this Transcaucasian republic, and the party's organizing and political work among the masses in preparation for general elections.

Members of the Politburo commission overseeing rescue and recovery efforts in Armenia following the tremors took part in the conference

Commission Notes Work Problem

LD2412133488 Moscow TASS in English 1319 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Yerevan December 24 TASS—The Politburo commission overseeing relief operations in quake-stricken Armenia, meeting Saturday to review recovery efforts, noted that many of its important assignments are not being fulfilled with enough dispatch and some questions have to be raised anew.

The meeting, conducted by Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Batalin, chairman of the State Building Committee, stressed the need for deeds to fully match words.

The knot of problems on transport, which is the crucial are of key significance to the pace of relief operations, still remains. Erratic transportation services are telling painfully on work on some of the sites.

It was emphasized that all kind of transport, which are used to deliver temporary dwellings, machines, foodstuffs and other products, must show efficiency and coordination.

The massive technical potential created using all-round aid to affected areas from the whole country, it was pointed out at the meeting, is not always being used to the utmost.

In some places vehicles and mechanisms have been seen staying idle, while badly needed elswhere. That was not the first time the matter was brought up at a commission meeting.

The session called for a comprehensive, plan-based approach to distributing technical and material resources. Otherwise, disproportions can result, similar to those revealed by a spot check made by the People's Control Committee of Armenia in a number of villages in the Spitak and Akhuryan districts.

A large number of what at this time of year are practically useless summer tents were discovered there, whereas relief teams still need warm lodging—yurts (conical-shaped central Asian tents), caravans and winter tents. There is a shortage of mattresses, blankets, sleeping bags, kitchen utensils and a number of other household goods.

The meeting paid much attention to ways to improve trading and public catering services in affected areas. Changes for the better in this respect, many speakers said, are unduly slow. Bread supplies to some villages, for example, are often not on schedule and sanitary conditions at food distribution points must be controlled more strictly.

Relevant authorities were instructed to provide workers with a choice of tasty meals and offer holiday shopping opportunities for those who will not leave their jobs even on the new year night.

Stepan Shalayev, chairman of the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, said that starting from December 10, 99,000 people have been evacuated, 55,000 of them to health resorts, 2,000 to sanatoriums belonging to the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and another 2,000 to sanatoriums and rest homes run by the Young Communist League.

The members of the commission and the leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia expressed gratitude to the trade union's relief task force for the efficient evacuation of children, women and old people.

It was noted that trade union's financial aid to quake victims is increasing. More than 200,000 roubles have already been spent for the purpose.

Government Meets on Relief

LD2412161188 Moscow TASS in English 1553 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—The Soviet Government had a special meeting on Saturday to consider urgent and all-round measures to help Armenia overcome the effects of a recent earthquake.

It pointed out that all the nation's ministries and economic agencies have shown marked consideration and a strong sense of responsibility in their proposals for rebuilding cities, settlements, villages and factories which suffered from the tremors in the Transcaucasian Republic.

Speakers made a point of stressing that it will only be possible to cope with the huge load of work involved in restoring everything in Leninakan, Kirovakan, Spitak, Stepanavan and other populated localities in Armenia if other Soviet republics maintain their fraternal aid to it without a respite and if the same businesslike and efficient approach is taken to addressing problems, which was characteristic of the first phase of dealing with the quake's aftermath.

These factors have made it possible to resolve the gamut of issues connected with providing the population with the necessaries of life and to begin restoring Armenia's social and economic potential.

Constructon workers in the next two years will have to repair or build anew four million square meters of housing as well as social, cultural and consumer service centers, shops, general education schools for 63,000 students, day nurseries for 15,000 children, hospitals with 4,820 beds and polyclinics and medical stations capable of catering for 8,900 patients a shift.

The scope of new industrial construction is indicated by the fact that, according to preliminary data, 136 factories have lost facilities capable of turning out nearly 1,250 million roubles worth of products a year.

Big inputs of both resources and funds are also required in the countryside where over 150 villages, 35,000 cottages, 260 schools and day nurseries and hundreds of cattle farms and other facilities have been destroyed either fully or partially.

The main task set by the Soviet Government in the course of discussions of the proposals of the ministries and departments of the USSR, the Councils of Ministers of union republics, is that everything in the disaster area should be built reliably, in strict compliance with the demands of seismic stability, on the basis of most advanced technology and with care taken to preserve the historical appearance and character of Armenian national architecture.

The USSR Council of Ministers prepared relevant resolutions on all issues discussed. They envisage that the total volume of expenditures into efforts to cope with the aftermath of the quake will amount to 6-6.5 billion roubles by preliminary estimates, including 2-2.5 billion in 1989. These expenditures will be revised on the results of the evaluation of the destruction caused by the quake.

The USSR Council of Ministers instructed the ministries and departments of the USSR, the Councils of Ministers of union republics systematically to review the progress of work in eliminating the consequences of the natural calamity and restoring the quake-shattered enterprises and social and cultural service centres in Armenia, to tackle all related problems expeditiously.

The meeting of the USSR Council of Ministers was attended by Nikolay Slyunkov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, and Yuriy Maslyukov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee. The meeting was presided by Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Gossnab Directs Aid Distribution

LD2512125588 Moscow TASS in English
1247 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Yerevan December 25 TASS—By TASS special correspondent Vladimir Yegorov:

All republics of the Soviet Union and dozens of foreign countries have responded to the calamity that struck Armenia. They are sending to quake victims various goods from canned meat and thermal underwear to heavey bulldozer and prefabricated homes.

The State Committee of the USSR for Material and Technical Supply (Gossnab) has taken over coordination in taking delivery and distributing relief aid.

Lev Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of Gossnab, described the committee's operations in the disaster zone at a meeting with Soviet and foreign newsmen today.

Supply organisations were extending their operations in extreme conditions, he remarked. "Communications with stricken regions were disrupted, the railway line and the airport in Leninakan (100 kilometres from Yerevan close to the quake epicentre) were damaged."

After the disaster, the chief burden was on civilian and military transport aviation. Planes carried out 130 flights in the first twenty-four hours after the devastating quake, transported 700 doctors and rescue workers and other specialists and evacuated 2,500 people injured in the calamity.

Overall, Aeroflot and foreign air lines completed more than 2,000 flights between December 7 and 23 and delivered more than 40,000 tons of vital cargo.

"The scope of transportation has grown when train traffic was restored a few days after the quake on the section between Leninakan and Kirovakan," Voronin observed.

"32,000 railway car-loads of equipment, building materials, tents, yurts (nomadic felt tents) and other cargo were sent to the republic. The delivery of oil products exceeded the average monthly quota by six times, that of coal by five times."

The deliveries of equipment intended for clearing debris was continuing, Voronin said. 4,500 vehicles, 1,800 cranes and many other machines and mechanisms were being used in the devastated towns and villages where housing construction was starting.

A great deal of work was ahead to restore the housing and revive the region's social and economic potential, Voronin pointed out. At least 200,000 construction workers will take part in the two-year restoration programme.

Plans for Rebuilding Armenian Towns

LD2512221988 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1530 GMT on 25 December carries a 4-minute recorded video report from Armenia by special reporter Tikhomirov. The report begins with aerial shots of Leninakan, showing earthquake damage, while Tikhomirov explains that half a million people have been left homeless and that the remaining structures could tumble down at any time. He says that these are the buildings of the past, and that future buildings will be of one, two, or at most five stories.

The report then shifts to a meeting being held in the ruins of Leninikan. First Secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Suren Gurenovich Arutunyan and Chairman of the USSR State Construction Committee Yuriy Petrovich Batalin are seen around a table with two unidentified men. looking at a map of Leninakan. Tikhomirov says that this meeting decided that "2 million square meters of housing has to be built, and factories have to be reestablished on the basis of new, labor-saving technology. Green belts are to be extended. It has even been decided to build housing painted with light colours."

The scene shifts to an interview with A.S. Aleksanyan, deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR State Construction Commission, who says that the new town must be light and airy, with places where people can meet. Tikhomirov then says: "The scheme has been approved, and the only depressing thing is the necessity of taking away land from kolkhozes. There is no other way out in Leninakan."

Tikhomirov adds that there are other possibilities in Kirovakan. Another meeting attended by Batalin and Arutunyan is then shown, where a man identified as Khachaturyan, the new first secretary of Gugarskiy raykom, suggests that use be made of surrounding terraces within a radius for 5 to 10 km of Kirovakan to build cottages with private plots. This would have the advantage of keeping people close to the land and would rapidly soive the housing problem. Batalin expresses approval of this proposal, and Arutunyan points out the acute shortage of arable land and suggests that terraces in nearby villages could indeed provide a suitable solution. Batalin says that the equipment necessary to build terraces is available and that help could be given to build such terraces.

As more airborne shots of the area are shown, Tikhomirov ends the report by saying that even though the elements have sown death and destruction, the people there are building a new life from the ground up.

Aid Said Distributed Unfairly

LD2612110988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Excerpts] It is now 19 Days since the earthquake in Armenia. Our correspondent Kalun Khumaryan reports from the Spitak disaster area:

[Khumaryan] Trains carrying cranes, bulldozers, dump trucks, and wooden houses continually pass along the repaired railways. Tent townships have mushroomed around Spitak for the military and the builders. The machines are parked next to them, a large number of machines from all corners of the country. But 10 km from Spitak, at the epicenter of that extremely destructive earthquake, in the village of (Shirokomoud), which is referred to at the Politburo commission's sessions as Nalband after the name of the railway station, the director of the branch of the local electrical engineering factory is asking (Adolf Georgievich Korkin) representative of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, for at least one mobile crane in order to clear the ruins of the factory. But the latter spreads his hands. There is no crane. There is a catastrophic shortage of cranes in rural localities. And not only cranes, moreover. Because of the sluggishness of the local leadership, its inability to work in extreme conditions, people who looked death in the face for several days and survived purely by chance are continuing to put up with deprivation, although the state, public organizations, and even foreign countries are providing tremendous assistance.

And there would easily be enough for everyone if we learned to have a humane attitude to one another. For example, Khaykop—to the Politburo commission on the enormous amount of things it sends to the stricken rural areas. Those figures are really and truly impressive. But here at Nalband, in the center of the destoyed village, a tent accommodating 10 stands with a field kitchen. What can it do for more than 2,000 people who have lost their belongings? What percentage of them can it feed?

Tents and yurtas have been erected outside the village. They have been standing for several days now but people are not coming here. They prefer to live in temporary shacks knocked together from anything at hand, but next to their house. I can understand them. They want their home to be here. Here they are hopeful of finding some of their savings, remains of furniture, bed linens, utensils beneath the ruins. Finally, they are waiting here for the commission which should evaluate the loss they have suffered.

Why not allocate those tents and yurts to the victims so that they can put them up where they think it necessary. What are those tent townships outside the village for, except for the records, if no one now lives nor will live in them? Who needs striking figures, if many many people have nowhere to live and nothing to eat? [passage omitted]

And now a small fragment from a conversation with Adolf Georgievich Korkin, representative of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, in the village of Nalband:

[Begin Korkin recording] The chairman of the village council and the director of the sovkhoz deal with questions of food and distribution. They are local residents and naturally they know their population and they allocate all those things. But I would like to say the following: That I do not see social fairness here. Literally on the second day here, I asked—although I came here on the 15th and there was a voluntary staff here for me—I asked for a list of those who had perished and those who had remained alive, and so on. But I have still not yet received these lists from the local leaders. Naturally, this creates certain difficulties—you can understand that—in the fair distribution of these things. [end recording]

Shcherbina Interviewed on Work

LD2712103188 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0915 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Leninakan, 27 Dec (TASS)—Rescue workers have still to find about 400 people under the ruins in the Armenian city of Leninakan, and this will be done by the New Year, said Boris Shcherbina, a member of the commission to eliminate the consequences of the earthquake and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. He reported in an interview with a TASS correspondent that the latest figures give 10,800 bodies and 8,000 people still alive as having been brought out of the ruins in the city.

"It is clear from the number saved what vast work has been done by our teams, Boris Shcherbina stressed. We are grateful to them and to the groups of foreign rescue workers and doctors from many countries of the world. Their help was particularly valuable in the time immediately after the disaster. ...They have all worked selflessly."

At present, he reported, all organizations have been restored in the city, the necessary management structures have been created, and industry is beginning to work. It will soon be possible to transfer to the normal form of trade; for the moment, produce is being given away free of charge. Many things collected for the victims in various cities around the country and sent from abroad have been distributed. However, a constant supply of warm clothing is essential; after all, it reaches 15 degrees below here in winter and, at a height of 2,000 meters in the villages, it reaches as low as minus 25.

Employment issues are being tackled. Those who cannot find work in their specialized field are being given the chance to acquire a new profession. At the same time, for a period of 6 months, people will receive their former average pay. However, the population is still in a highly depressed state; after all, there is so much suffering and so many personal tragedies around. In order to restore people to a life of full value, radio and television services have been brought back into operation and schools are preparing to open—around 10,000 children remain in the city. "The children will be getting a tree and presents for the New Year."

"As soon as we finish clearing the debris, the main task will be to restore the city, Boris Shcherbina said. We shall, very soon, along with the leadership of the republic, examine planners' proposals as to how to conduct the construction work. For the moment, the general idea is as follows: to build satellite towns to start with around Leninakan, install people there and then to deal with construction within the city."

Speaking of the lessons of the tragedy, he was in favor of creating special mobile forces to defend and rescue the population in disaster situations within the framework of the civil defence in the future.

Politburo Commission Discusses Aid

PM2712122588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 88 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "On a Systematic Basis. In the CPSU Central Committee Politburo Commission"]

[Text] A systematic foundation is being laid in the planning of restoration work in the zone hit by the earthquake. It will help in efficiently mobilizing all resources and opportunities offered to the union republic by the country to the greatest benefit of the cause.

The regular working session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission, held 26 December and chaired by Yu.P. Batalin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, discussed in detail the program for the comprehensive functioning of the transportation system in the coming month. This is indeed the approach, departmental representatives emphasized, that will ensure the steady pace of the transportation of all necessary freight and will increase the speed of handling the rolling stock.

An interdepartmental staff was organized on instructions from the commission and was assigned the functions of coordinating the transportation system for all restoration works. It is made up of representatives of the union and republic committees for people's control, railroad workers, and senior officials from the USSR and Armenian SSR Gosstroy, Gossnab, and Gosagroprom, the motor vehicles transportation and trade networks, the USSR Ministry of Defense, and the Armenian Komsomol Central Committee. The staff has already embarked on practical work.

The Transcaucasian railway section was divided in three sectors, whose operations are monitored around the clock. Transportation priorities have been laid down. Priority has been given to fuel, prefabricated homes, and detachments which continue to arrive from all corners of the country to the zone of restoration works.

Emphasis was placed on the need to coordinate as soon as possible the utilization of loading and unloading facilities at key junctions. Transportation construction workers were given 2 weeks to achieve the greatest possible expansion of tracks in the zone of works. The USSR Ministry of Communications and the relevant union republic departments were assigned the task of promptly restoring telephone communications between stations. This is an important part of the work to set up a unified system of information on the movement and delivery of freight to its destination.

The session noted, however, that the system by itself is incapable of resolving the entire package of problems unless it is based on firmer discipline. It was proposed in particular to apply punitive fines to organizations and departments which show no concern for the prompt unloading of cars, which results in car idle time that is impermissible in the extraordinary conditions of the restoration works.

The further improvement of the trade and public catering system is an important sphere of social amenities in a region of Armenia where tens of thousands of people are now working. These questions cannot be totally resolved just by opening individual stores, dining rooms, or field kitchens. The Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, the country's and republic's Ministries of Trade, and a series of other departments and organizations were instructed by the commission to elaborate within 2 days a comprehensive system for the development of this sector of the social sphere. This program must be based on a specific work schedule. In order to rapidly expand the network of dining rooms and stores, it was envisaged in particular to make use of buildings still standing in the disaster zone and of the mobile homes arriving there.

The commission heard and discussed a report by the USSR Gosagroprom on the situation in the region's villages. Many villages are deserted and the migration of population from them is continuing, thus creating numerous problems. The commission emphasized that it is necessary to enhance the role of party organizations and soviets at all levels in stabilizing the situation in the countryside. Specific measures were mapped out to boost the pace of construction and installation work there and to improve the supply of everything needed by restoration work detachments.

The session was informed that the epidemiological situation in the disaster zone was normal in the last 24 hours. Telephone communications have been restored with 252 out of a total of 254 villages.

A further 3,435 persons were evacuated during the last 24 hours. Some 3,010 were sent to resorts and sanatoriums. A total of 105,239 persons have been resettled since the start of organized evacuation from the disaster region. Almost 66,000 of them are outside Armenia. Some 60,781 persons are accommodated in sanatoriums and rest homes in the republic and neighboring regions of the country.

L.A. Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, took part in the session.

New Rector of Yerevan Polytechnic Institute

NC2312095588 Yerevan Domestic Service in Russian 0630 GMT 23 Dec 88

[From the review of KOMMUNIST]

[Text] After a secret ballot, Yuriy Leonovich Sarkisyan, doctor of technical sciences and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian SSR, has been elected rector of the Yerevan Polytechnic Institute. KOMMUNIST correspondent Alayan has had a meeting with Comrade Sarkisyan and asked him to describe how he sees the future of the world's greatest republic. The paper publishes the text of the interview.

Baku Military Commandant Issues Various Notices

Notice on Demonstrations

NC2312120888 Baku Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Notice by Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of Baku City Special District]

[Text] The commandant's office of the Special District (?would like to inform) the citizens of Baku that certain individuals are calling for the holding of meetings and demonstrations, although these are prohibited by the special situation. Such activities are covered by the first point of the USSR Supreme Soviet decree of 23 November 1988 and result in detention by administrative order [words indistinct] of up to 30 days [words indistinct]. The right to determine the precise period of detention in [words indistinct] attached to internal affairs organs and (?other) premises is granted to the minister of internal affairs of the republic. Precinct commandants and heads of rayon branches of internal affairs have been instructed to check the data received and to detain those guilty in strict compliance with the law.

I am aware that, in order to catch up on the lag that has been allowed to occur in production, the city's labor collectives are working extended shifts and coming to work voluntarily on Saturdays and Sundays. Lessons in all the city's educational institutions are being conducted according to the established schedule. For my part, I would like to assure the working people of the city that they can go to work without worrying. We will not let anyone violate legality.

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District

'Peace' Prevails in Baku

NC2312170088 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Notice by Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District, to citizens of the Azerbaijan SSR, issued on 22 December]

[Text] Peace prevailed in the city yesterday. However, it has been established that individual establishments and administrations, for example, the leading officials of the Apsheronskiy drilling administration, the Ministry of Education, the 26 Baku Commissars oil and gas extraction administration, the Karadagskiy Rayon construction materials complex, the Dzhebrail'skiy Rayon automobile garage, and other organizations, have not observed the rules which apply for presenting documents required to enter Baku.

Many drivers are trying to drive [word indistinct] and technical vehicles, which do not have the required documents, into the city. Meanwhile, citizens from [word indistinct] do not possess documents showing their identity and their place of employment or place of education.

I would like to remind the people about the rules that apply for citizens and private and state transportation vehicles entering Baku City.

1. All citizens who are covered by the pass system in Baku; citizens who have documents confirming that they work or study within Baku City limits; citizens who have arrived in Baku from other cities by air and posses airplane tickets; citizens who possess [word indistinct] for Baku; citizens who possess other documents which allow them to travel to [word indistinct] hospitals, polytechnics, procurator's office, airport, railway stations, sanatoriums, and vacation homes; private vehicles which are registered in Baku, [words indistinct] are allowed to enter Baku.

In the event that the movement of transport vehicles from other cities to Baku becomes imperative, the leading officials of establishments and organizations will be required to submit, 3 days in advance, three copies of their written applications to the commandant of the area in which the checkpoint at the city entrance is located.

2. Citizens travelling to Baku City in state transport vehicles must possess a document (?allowing them to travel to Baku), a document for [word indistinct], a document allowing them to transport commodities, and a document allowing them to enter the city on the basis of the rules which apply from 2200 to 0500.

3. Individuals who carry firearms, cold [soguk] weapons, and intoxicating substances, and who fail to comply with the demands of the officials on duty, will be detained and handed over to the internal affairs organs together with their documents, weapons, and the intoxicating substances.

I wish to explain that the leading officials of establishments, administrations, and organizations are responsible for issuing properly arranged documents to enter Baku City.

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District.

Detentions for Illegal Meetings

NC2312204488 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1645 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Notice by Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District, issued 23 December]

[Text] The city residents appeal to the military commandant's headquarters in the special district and write that individual people are calling for meetings and demonstrations, disregarding the fact that such activities have been banned by the special situation.

The activities of these individuals are regarded as being equal to disrupting national justice [milli adalet] and the individuals referred to are detained under administrative procedure for up to 30 days in accordance with the first paragraph of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium's decree on 23 November 1988. The specific detention period of these individuals in special detention centers and other places arranged by the internal affairs organs is determined by the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The field commanders and the directors of the district's internal affairs ogans have been instructed to investigate the information they receive and to detain the criminals in accordance with the laws.

It must be pointed ou that the city's work collectives are working extra shifts to try to remove backwardness in production. They are working voluntarily on Saturdays and Sundays. [passage indistinct]

I wish to assure the city workers that they can [words indistinct]. We shall not allow laws to be breached.

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov military commandant of the Baku City Special District

Normalization in Baku Continues

NC2612182588 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Notice by Colonel General Tyagunov, commandant of the Baku City Special District, issued on 26 December]

[Text] The process of normalizing the situation in the city is continuing. No violations of the law were recorded during the day. Industrial organizations, transportation, and trade and livelihood establishments maintained a more regular rhythm of work (?during the day).

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District

Medvedev Addresses Tatar Oblast Conference

PM2612152588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report under the rubric "At the Party Conferences": "To Advance Restructuring Through Practical Deeds"]

[Text] Participants in the Tatar Oblast report and election party conference, held 23-24 December, discussed constructive ways for the region's further development from positions of criticism and self-criticism. The processes of restructuring now under way in all spheres of the republic's life were analyzed in depth during the period of preparations for the conference, and useful work was done on the study of public opinion.

V.A. Medvedev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the conference.

Delegates stressed that the difficulties and imbalances in Tataria's economy are being gradually overcome, that new methods of economic management are gathering strength. Some 139 industrial associations and enterprises, accounting for two-thirds of manufactured output, worked in conditions of economic accountability, self-financing, and cost recovery in the current year. Positive developments are taking place in sectors of the agro-industrial complex, and social questions are being more energetically resolved.

The keynote report by G.I. Usmanov, first secretary of the CPSU obkom, and the speeches by A.Sh. Sadykov, milling machine operator at the S.P. Gorbunov Aviation Production Association; V.Ye. Alemasov, chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences Kazan Branch Presidium; G.A. Abdrakitova, teacher at the Arskiy Rayon secondary school; F.N. Davlatshina, leader of a leasing team on Agryzskiy Rayon's "Tatarstan" Kolkhoz; T.A. Minnulin, chairman of the republic Writers Union Board; and V.Ye. Filatov, team leader at the Kama truck plant's components plant; and other delegates discussed with concern the fact that, despite the incipient movement forward, party committees and individual leaders are still timid and hesitant in the face of revolutionary changes in economic and spiritual life. Many have found it difficult to part company with the old methods of work and to overcome indifference and the habit of living and working by orders "from the top."

V.A. Medvedev addressed the conference.

The current report and election campaign, he said, coincides with a crucial moment in our development along the path of restructuring, in the transition from the stage of analyzing the situation prevailing in the country when social forces were being set in motion and society was living through a period of a flood of rallies and stormy emotions, to the stage of large-scale work on the practical implementation of the program elaborated by the party. Today we have a different perception of many aspects of our activity, of our history, of our position in the world and the system of contemporary international relations. The main point is that we know where we are going and how to get there.

Claims can be heard at times that we embarked on restructuring supposedly without any program and having no idea of where to begin and how to go about it. By the time of the April (1985) plenum, the new party leadership already had available an analysis of the situation, and the main sore spots had been identified. In principle, there was also clarity as regards what had to be done and what questions had to be resolved, even though, of course, the restructuring program was constantly deepened and amplified after April. It can be said that it was being tried and tested in practice and augmented by experience and knowledge. The result is that now we really have a thoroughly elaborated, politically tested, and considered program for practical actions.

Important practical steps were also taken during this period. The decline in the growth rate of production and labor productivity was halted. Economic methods of management are making headway, even though this still demands major efforts. A turnaround is taking place as regards the social reorientation of the economy. Positive processes in the sociopolitical sphere are under way.

The attention of the broad world public is literally riveted on restructuring and its brainchild in the foreign policy sphere, the new political thinking.

M.S. Gorbachev's speech at the recent UN General Assembly session became the major event of the recent past. It revealed new horizons for the development of foreign policy processes and invited the world community to take part in the joint solution of universal problems.

On the whole, we are in a position to say: Thanks to innovative approaches and to bold and decisive actions inside the country and in the international arena, the party has restored and consolidated its prestige in society and has gained a tremendous measure of trust from the people.

But this trust will not last indefinitely. The party leadership realizes that the movement forward must be accelerated. The people demand more resolute action. The necessary dynamism is still lacking. The proper returns are nowhere to be seen.

Hence the growing demands regarding the responsibility of every party organization and every Communist, a responsibility measured by their activeness, principledness, and real influence on the course of events.

Complex and contradictory processes which reflect the crucial nature of our times are to be observed in virtually all spheres of society's life. They are also leaving their imprint on the ideological and political situation in the country.

The changes which have taken place in this sphere are truly vast. They are mainly positive. It is perhaps in ideology itself, in spiritual life that the most substantial breakthrough has been achieved, a breakthrough guaranteeing the pace of restructuring and offering opportunities for its expansion in breadth and depth.

Greater divergence of positions, moods, and opinions regarding the nature of tasks and the methods for their solution emerges against the background of support for restructuring, tremendous upsurge of the people's initiative, and social enthusiasm. There is, if you like, a certain polarization of opinions under way.

Conservative-dogmatic moods are, as previously, a serious obstacle to restructuring. The emerging problems and difficulties in the economy, in the implementation of political reform, and in interethnic relations, and the distortions and excesses in the ideological sphere are often exploited for the purpose of casting aspersions on restructuring and depicting the emergent difficulties and negative phenomena as having been engendered by restructuring. In this way, latent doubts are generated: Are we not paying too high a price for restructuring? Is the blame not directly attributable to the economic reform and economic accountability, to what they perceive as the excessive autonomy of enterprises and the cooperative system?

It looks as if attempts are being made to bring us back to the path of administrative-edict methods, especially since we have not yet distanced ourselves far enough from them. Here we feel the effect of the deep-rooted practice tending toward leveling and dependency and the resistance by some economic managers and specialists unwilling to work in the new fashion. The old ways often take on the role of guardians of our teaching's purity and are camouflaged beneath general declarations about the supposed incompatibility between the new forms of economic management and the ideas about socialism. But the crux of the matter is: What ideas are these?

Economic accountability, the cooperative system, the socialist market, and commodity-money relations are not recent inventions. They date back to Lenin's idea of socialist development. They actively promote socialism now.

No, our difficulties are not the product of economic reform but, on the contrary, they are rather the consequence of its incompleteness, the inadequately worked out economic methods, the insufficiently consistent implementation of plans. We need even deeper and more genuine restructuring of property relations, in other words of that which comprises the essence of reform. We must without fail overcome man's alienation from the means of production, restore his interest, and ensure an order whereby wages are truly earned and are paid in respect of actually manufactured output which is needed by the national economy and by people.

Conservatism is one side of antirestructuring moods. The other side is represented by the pressure of those who are impatient, who try to push us along the adventurist path of forcing transformations through without taking into account their real potential and the real level of mass awareness, without taking into account the certain logic and consistency of measures being implemented, by those who are trying to confuse the progress of restructuring through demagoguery and negativist assessments.

Never mind the various sorts of careerist and extremist elements which try to camouflage themselves beneath the slogan of restructuring but which pursue completely different and essentially antisocialist goals.

The ideological atmosphere is at times polluted by various indecencies, poor taste, and tactlessness all the way to humiliation of human dignity.

In a nutshell, the ideological situation now is substantially different from what it was 2 years or even 1 year ago. But now is perhaps the time for genuine ideological work. Not a time for so-called ideological influence through instructions and directives, but a time which demands the skill to work not only with those who agree with us from the outset but also with those who have to be persuaded, those with whom it is necessary to debate.

Ideological work today is called upon to render even more effective service to restructuring, to the protection and deepening of its basic avenues, and mainly to the practical implementation of the set program of renewal.

We will continue to march along the path of democratization of ideological processes and of expansion and deepening of glasnost, of socialist pluralism of opinions but of a genuinely socialist pluralism of opinions whose criteria are the people's interests and loyalty to our socialist choice, to Lenin's theoretical, political, and ideological legacy, to the international unity and friendship between our country's peoples. These are the parameters of our future work, and we will not retreat from them.

Party leadership of the press has always been and remains a matter of principle for us. Noting the great service rendered by the press to restructuring, V.A. Medvedev drew attention to the problems existing here, some of which are highly acute and grave. It is no accident that there are ambiguous reactions to press material in party circles and among the public. These reactions reflect the complex spectrum of moods. They probably are conditioned by remnants of the past, the traditional attitude of mentorship toward the mass media, the nonacceptance of, and oversensitive reaction to critical remarks. But this is also a kind of response to some serious excesses contained in certain publications. People are worried by the clamorous sensationalism and destructive tone of some material, the whipping up of passions, the liberties taken with facts, the shortage of professionalism and analytical approach, the desire by some authors to lecture everybody and somehow place themselves above society.

The mass media must obey the general rules and must develop within the framework of the socialist rule-of-law state.

Measures are now being taken to lay foundations for legal regulations in this sphere. The law on the press is being drafted, but no law can replace the civic stance and party responsibility of mass media leaders and our entire journalistic corps.

The secretary of the Central Committee went on to dwell on questions of ideological work concerning the reform of the political system. Often enough, he said, our propaganda reduces the entire reform of the political system to restructuring the work of soviets and somehow overlooks the restructuring of the party itself. But the clear-cut definition of the party's position in society as the political vanguard, the change of its structure, the separation of functions, and the restructuring of its apparatus and its methods of work actually constitute the nucleus of the political reform on which all the rest depends, including the enhancement of the soviets' role and the changing nature of their activity.

The report and election campaign within the party organization which is drawing to a close indicates that the party's restructuring is advancing, that broad masses of Communists and the population have been given an opportunity to actively influence the shaping of party organs. A new style has developed, and it must be consolidated and developed in daily party work. Much still remains to be done—to relieve party committees of functions that are not really theirs, to improve the political methods of work, and much else that was discussed at the 19th party conference.

In the next few months the party will undergo a serious test of its political platform and influence. The CPSU Central Committee is looking at the forthcoming elections as a serious review of the party's prestige among the masses, the effectiveness of its measures to restructure awareness, the influence on various sectors of the country's life and work.

The campaign which has been launched offers a remarkable opportunity to attract new, active, and committed supporters to the side of revolutionary renewal, to shape a much deeper understanding of the party's line and the tasks it is solving.

In the context of discussing the forthcoming elections, the speaker touched upon the topic of informal associations. The party's stance toward them has been elaborated. Its essence is that the stormy growth of unsponsored associations and informal groups is an organic and natural component of the process of restructuring, a tangible manifestation of socialist pluralism. At the same time, it is impossible to overlook the contradictions, complexities, the variegated spectrum of opinions, and of course the manifestations of extremism that occur here, the attempts by some individuals to take advantage of a healthy process for the purpose of setting and attaining antisocial goals.

Our main criterion which determines the stance toward unsponsored organizations is their compatibility with the goals of restructuring, the ideology of renewal, and the socialist choice.

Questions of interethnic relations occupy a special position in the party's activity and ideological work. Serious problems have emerged here, problems which built up gradually over the decades. Remaining unresolved, they were driven deeper inside. The treatment of the development of interethnic relations in the country as being problem-free served us poorly in the past. Harm was also done by the far-fetched and imaginary tenets about the fusion of nations—that also happened. It is only natural that the accumulated problems should surface in an atmosphere of democracy and glasnost.

Describing the situation as a whole, V.A. Medvedev raised questions of regional and republican economic accountability. In conformity with the general approaches toward the leadership of the national economy, he said, it is necessary to introduce without fail a strict dependence of labor results and incomes on labor efficiency on a republican or regional scale.

Work along this avenue is now being done with participation by all the union republics. We hope that optimal suggestions will be elaborated, taking into account the needs of the integrated national economic complex and, at the same time, assigning economic responsibility to every republic and every region for the results of its production and intensifying material interest in the improvement of these results.

The secretary of the Central Committee went on to emphasize: Life confirms time and again the correctness of Lenin's idea that a principled policy is the most correct policy. There are times when it is necessary to engage in an open struggle. Swimming with the tide and playing up to unhealthy moods does nothing to enhance prestige and, sooner or later, leads to a political collapse. Only an honest, open, and bold stance can erect a barrier against the tide of the petit bourgeois element and ensure ultimate success.

A serious lesson must be learned from the crisis phenomena in interethnic relations. Confidence that this will be done stems from the most vivid mass manifestations of our peoples' deep-rooted unity during the tragic events in Armenia. These events demonstrated in particular the profound nature of our peoples' international brotherhood and affirmed yet again in practice the strength of the socialist collectivism comradeship, and mutual assistance which distinguish our union.

V.A. Medvedev gave much attention to questions of work with young people. We all know, he said, the activeness and willingness with which Soviet young men and women joined the processes of restructuring. Therefore, the tendencies toward negative moods among young people are that much more alarming.

I cannot overlook the cases of organized violence by adolescents. Such cases have been recorded in many of our cities. Unfortunately, Kazan is one of them. Moreover, it appears that there is nobody here capable of coping with either the scale or the acuteness of the phenomenon. It is totally impossible to justify the intolerable indifference or the inefficiency of the measures which, as events have shown, have for a long time been inadequate to meet the acuteness of the situation.

The roots of these events must be sought in the fact that many young people's problems remain unsolved, both in production and in daily life, and their interests are being ignored.

The key note at the congress of public education workers which has only just ended was provided by a very correct idea: It is impossible to look at the rising generations as just an object of education. We usually say: Young people must be trained for life. Yet from the moment they are born, people are not being trained for life, they are actually living life.

Every age group has its own interests and its own demands. Unless this is taken into account, the results are most lamentable. Serious work at great depth is needed. The measures that have been taken to step up this work among adolescents and to involve them in public associations and clubs cannot be considered adequate. Why not involve Afghanistan veterans more broadly in this noble cause, seeing that work with them is not sufficiently active in the republic?

V.A. Medvedev stressed in conclusion that the guarantee of the irreversibility and success of restructuring lies entirely in the activeness of people and the vanguard role of party organizations and every Communist. It is demanded of party committees and party organizations to be proper political leaders. This is our civic duty. This is our duty to history.

During his stay in Tataria's capital, V.A. Medvedev toured the city and met working people. He visited monuments linked with V.I. Lenin's life and called at Kazan State University, where the young Vladimir Ulyanov studied and embarked on his revolutionary activity. V.A. Medvedev made an entry in the Honorary Guests Book in the Lenin Memorial there. He had a conversation with leaders and members of the educational establishment's party committee.

Flowers were laid at the monument to the founder of the world's first socialist state. The secretary of the CPSU Central Committee visited the "Dary Prirody" [Gifts of Nature] store where various types of agro-industrial complex products are on display, and one of the kolkhoz markets.

V.A. Medvedev met the members of the newly elected Tatar CPSU Obkom.

Ligachev Addresses Rostov Conference

PM2612163788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 88 Second Edition pp 2, 3

[TASS report under the rubric "At the Party Conferences": "The Communist's Active Stance"]

[Text] Rostov-na-Donu, 24 Dec—Specific deeds and actual results are now being moved to the foreground. It is necessary to work even more persistently to ensure that our main forces, the primary party organizations, follow a good pace along the tracks of renewal, do not slow down when climbing a gradient, and operate actively and uncompromisingly on all fronts of restructuring. This was emphasized at the oblast party conference held here.

Ye.K. Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in it.

Delegates noted that the last few years were distinguished by faster growth of production indicators than during the 11th 5-Year Plan period, and that the first positive changes have begun to appear as regards the improvement of the economy's health, as have tendencies toward a real turnaround in the economy's orientation toward the better satisfaction of people's needs and requirements. But it is still premature to talk of any radical breakthrough. The Don region's grain growing area is one of the largest and technically best equipped. But despite improvements in the capital-labor and power-worker ratios, the growth rate of agricultural output production in the oblast still fails to fully guarantee the attainment of the objectives set by the food program.

The keynote report by B.M. Volodin, first secretary of the CPSU Obkom, and the speeches by V.G. Malov, leader of a rolling mill operators team at the Belaya Kalitva metallurgical plant; N.V. Pereverzovaya, machine operator at Peschanokopskiy Rayon's "Put Lenina" Kolkhoz; P.Ya. Voloshin, first secretary of the Zimovnikovskiy party raykom; V.A. Tyzykhyan, chairman of Myasnikovskiy Rayon's "Put k Kommunizma" kolkhoz; P.G. Borisov, secretary of Taganrog's Dimitrov Plant party committee; N.L. Rasnikov, teacher at the Dubovskiy Rayon secondary school; and others discussed from positions of strict principledness the fact that restructuring of style and methods is still hardly noticeable in the activity of many party organizations, that there is a shortage of initiative and persistence in work and of constant attention to people.

Ye.K. Ligachev addressed the conference. He said that the report and election campaign within the party and the course of the conference of Don Communists reflect the changes occurring in the activity of the Communist Party, organizer and guarantor of restructuring. By restructuring itself, the party is renewing society's life. Millions of people have joined the process of creativity and active political life.

During the first 3 years of the current 5-year plan period the country has succeeded in halting the sharp decline of the growth rate of social production. There has been an increase of the annual growth of national income, industry, and agriculture, and the volume of construction has increased not only in housing but in the entire social and cultural complex. Economic and political reforms are being implemented, and the moral atmosphere is changing.

Primarily as a result of the Soviet Union's efforts, the world is moving toward real disarmament, switching from confrontation to cooperation. There has been a major international response to the Soviet Union's proposals on unilateral reduction of armed forces put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in his recent speech at the United Nations.

All this is perhaps the main result of party activity following the Central Committee April (1985) Plenum.

At the same time, it is well known that society has also encountered serious difficulties. People's incomes are rising faster than labor productivity. Inflationary processes are developing. A shortage of foodstuffs can be felt. The ecological situation has deteriorated. Interethnic relations have become more complex in some republics.

But there is no ground for despondency. This is said in order to more fully mobilize our forces, to pursue matters more energetically, and to overcome the difficulties arising along the path of social restructuring. No matter where a Communist may work, he—and his organization—must be a political fighter implementing party policy and upholding the interests of the people and of the socialist society. Unfortunately, we encounter instances when Communists fail to rebuff parochialism and extremism. Passiveness is impermissible here. These problems will not go away of their own accord; things will not automatically work out fine, as some people imagine. Struggle and active work are needed here. Each one of us must cultivate the feeling that, in the poet's words, "the people are incomplete without me." After all, each and every one of us Communists is responsible for our common cause.

The Rostov party organization is one of the largest in the country. The Don Communists and the Don labor collectives have to their credit feats in the struggle for Soviet power, in the building of socialism, and in the defense of its gains. Images of Don Communists, of people loyal to the cause of the revolution, are enshrined forever in the works by your fellow countryman and great Soviet writer M.A. Sholokhov. You can be justifiably proud of your lineage.

Your oblast also occupies an eminent position in current affairs—in the development of the country's economy and science, in social transformations. Changes for the better are taking place in the Rostov party organization's activity and in its style and methods. Now it is important to ensure that the positive changes in the work of the oblast's party organizations on restructuring acquire depth and stability.

The secretary of the CPSU Central Committee noted that satisfying the country's needs for high-quality foodstuffs was set by the party as one of the paramount tasks of restructuring. It described the food question as the main question of domestic policy.

Taking the country as a whole, and despite a certain growth of the production of agricultural output during the current 5-year plan period, the population's effective demand for foodstuffs is substantially in excess of supply. Money incomes per capita are rising twice as fast as the production of agricultural output. The country is forced to meet some of its needs by importing grain, meat, and butter. Furthermore, the volume of imports is not declining.

New difficulties have recently emerged in agriculture. As a result of this year's drought, there is a tangible shortage of feeds for stock raising. Much work is being done on stock units, and economic, social, and organizational labor incentives have been brought into play. It is important to prevent a decline of milk and meat production. As you know, the CPSU Central Committee issued this call in a letter to the country's stockmen.

The question naturally arises: Why is it that our country cannot produce sufficient food from its own resources? There are quite a few reasons. An interpretation of past and present development of the agro-industrial complex leads to one and the same conclusion. Agrarian policy has not always been distinguished by a comprehensive approach and was often built on subjectivism, in other words on singling out one aspect of the work while ignoring the others. Hence the huge discrepancies in the degree of development of the various elements comprising the agro-industrial complex. The complex is literally being squeezed by imbalances. Especially imbalances between the production and the special spheres, between agriculture and the processing of its output, between stock raising and feed production, between the tractor pool and the implements for cultivation. This results in considerable losses of output and the immobilization of considerable resources. Only a balanced and proportional development of sectors and enterprises within the agro-industrial complex offers scope for a high return on capital investment.

This is why the utmost consolidation of the material foundation of production and science, the substantial changes in economic relations, the countryside's social development, and the equivalent exchange between city and countryside—all this, taken together, is capable of comprehensively advancing agriculture and ensuring the country's food supplies.

Of course, at every new stage some link of the agro-industrial complex emerges in the foreground and becomes the main accelerator of progress. In this case, it is a matter of improving production and economic relations. Relations of economic accountability, lease contracts, and the cooperative system are being developed in the countryside. Moreover, agricultural cooperatives and lease contracts are implemented within the framework of kolkhozes and sovkhozes. It ought to be borne in mind that, according to Lenin, socialism is a system of civilized cooperative members under conditions of public ownership of the means of production.

The contemporary kolkhoz or sovkhoz will become a cooperative built on a strictly democratic basis, as an association of primary cooperatives and leasing collectives. A kolkhoz or sovkhoz can either voluntarily or by force of necessity join a cooperative with other farms or enterprises. The agro-industrial complex will thus become a ramified network of diverse cooperatives in the spheres of production, supply, marketing of output, and credits.

Our task is to ensure that the transition to cooperative or leasing relations is implemented through example and proof of their advantages rather than by force. Do not dare to issue edicts!—this is what V.I. Lenin demanded.

Economic activity and the entire life in our country is turning more and more in the direction of man and his interests, needs, and daily requirements. This is the practical implementation of the course of restructuring. Naturally, agrarian policy must also focus on the working man. It is necessary to ensure his creative activeness, to find a correct combination of personal and social interests. But this is not enough. Man must also be well looked after and technically supplied; concern must be shown for him.

But for the time being the countryside is lagging so far behind the cities in the social sphere that, in terms of scale and pace, the work being done along this avenue altogether fails to meet the needs of the rural population and the acuteness of the food problem in the country. There is a great gap separating the working and living conditions enjoyed by working people in the countryside and in cities, and this gap is hardly closing in many of the country's regions. Rural regions suffer from lack of highways. The income of agricultural workers is far lower than in other sectors, while kolkhoz members' pensions are 1.5 times lower than industrial workers'.

All this has led to a considerable outflow of rural population, and its scale is showing no sign of declining in many localities. More than 1 million people left rural localities in the RSFSR and the Ukraine during the 1st 2 years of the current 5-year plan period. During the same period, 7,700 persons left the countryside in Rostov Oblast.

The city and industry are interested in a strong countryside and a highly developed agro-industrial complex. In order to ensure that people do not abandon the countryside, living conditions in rural localities must be no worse than those in cities. The supply of technical equipment available for rural labor must be considerably improved, while incomes must be substantially higher than the average for the country. Ultimately, the city and the country as a whole will gain from this. In short, we need additional major investments in agriculture and the countryside. Otherwise the food situation cannot be rectified.

It is well known, Ye.K. Ligachev emphasized, that the agro-industrial complex consists of agricultural production and the industry processing its output. And yet, for a long time now, the country's processing industry has been considered of secondary importance. Judge for yourselves: The growth rate for fixed assets of production in agriculture is twice as high as in the processing sphere. What is the result of this? Naturally, higher losses of agricultural output. Add transportation and storage to this, and the losses and waste build up to millions of tonnes of food products.

Here is an interesting fact. The USSR's population amounts to about 6 percent of all the earth's inhabitants while our country produces 23 percent of the world's milk output. And yet, we are short of butter, cheese, and other dairy products. Why? Here we have the effect of obsolete technology and second-rate equipment for the processing and storage of milk, resulting in major losses.

For example, a sizeable proportion of equipment for the production and packaging of food products in the West is manufactured with electronic control systems. We have just the odd few models.

There can be only one conclusion: Radical changes are needed here. On instructions from the CPSU Central Committee, a program for the retooling of the country's food industry was elaborated and is now being implemented. Tens of billions of rubles have been appropriated for this purpose in 1988-1995, which is more than the amount for the entire postwar period. The machine building complex and industry's defense sectors are involved in the development and production of modern equipment.

Policy as regards the deployment of processing industry enterprises has been reviewed. Processing and storage enterprises used to be sited primarily in cities lying tens and even hundreds of kilometers away from the sources of raw materials. Practice has proved that we must part company with gigantomania. We need small- and medium-capacity plants sited as near as possible to the production of agricultural output. It is planned to commission in the next few years about 2,000 shops for the processing of meat, milk, fruit, and vegetables actually on the territory of the country's kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and agrocombines. Finished products will be delivered to consumers from there.

Of course, the training of cadres for the agro-industrial complex, and moreover of cadres who can think and act in the new fashion, must be the target of constant concern by party organizations and economic leaders. There are many avenues for this work, but we have forgotten our own useful experience. Back in the thirties, when the world situation was completely different, our country used to send its specialists to economically developed capitalist countries. We later ceased to take advantage of this channel. So-called experience acquisition travel gradually turned into irresponsible pleasure trips. Obviously, the time has come to adopt the practical training of specific officials abroad. This practice must actually be more widely applied even within the country.

Preparations are now under way for a CPSU Central Committee plenum which is intended to examine the basic guidelines of the party's agrarian policy at the contemporary stage of socialist building. This means qualitative renewal of the agro-industrial complex, and primarily profound changes in economic relations and its material and technical foundation, a program for the countryside's social development.

Taking into account the suggestions made at conferences held in the CPSU Central Committee, work is now being done to elaborate CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolutions on questions of improving economic relations, scientific and technical progress, and cadres policy in the agro-industrial complex and of the countryside's social transformation. Major decisions are in the making.

Analyzing the Rostov Oblast party organization's work on the implementation of the party's agrarian policy and the supply of food products to the population, Ye.K. Ligachev noted that the oblast's potential is inadequately utilized. Grain harvest yields and dairy herd productivity are at rather low levels. Subsidiary farms of the population and enterprises are developing only slowly. More than one-third of families keep no animals at all. Energetic and persistent work is needed to fulfill the CPSU Central Committee resolution, adopted at the beginning of this year, on the tasks of Rostov Oblast party, soviet, and economic organs for enhancing the efficiency of agricultural production. It is a matter of honor for people in the Rostov region to ensure that the Soviet-made "Don" grain combine harvester meets world standards.

In conclusion, Ye.K. Ligachev dwelt on questions of mastering the political methods of party work. First of all, party committees must resolutely abandon issuing edicts and interfering in the day-to-day operations of economic activity. Cadres policy occupies a special position among the political means for party activity. The selection criteria are extremely strict now. People are solidly behind those whose ethics and behavior coincide with rigorous observance of party and state discipline, honesty and probity, and implacability toward violations of the norms of social justice, those who are distinguished by modesty.

The renewal of cadres is an inevitable process and, moreover, a necessary process. It is important to emphasize that electivity of leaders does not in any way relieve party committees of their responsibility for the selection and education of cadres. Today it is through our party's basic link—the primary party organizations and Communists—that the CPSU implements its political course. To boost activeness, to ensure that each organization and each Communist become proper political fighters—this is main commandment issued to party organizations by the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

During his stay in Rostov Oblast 20-24 December, Ye.K. Ligachev familiarized himself with the party organizations' activity on the practical implementation of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference directives.

Much attention was given to the enhancement of the agro-industrial complex' efficiency and the intensification of the social orientation of economic activity. On farms in Matveyevo-Kurganskiy Rayon the secretary of the the CPSU Central Committee met kolkhoz members, farm leaders and specialists, and members of leasing collectives, and called at the secondary school. There was a discussion of ways to ensure steady output of grain, feed, and stockraising products. The "Mir" kolkhoz and the "Matveyevo-Kurganskiy" sovkhoz have fully switched to leasing relations, which has substantially improved the results of economic activity. It was noted that this experience deserves active dissemination in all of the oblast's rayons. Leasing contractors must be helped by all possible means and all necessary conditions must be created for them.

Ye.K. Ligachev went to urban and rural stores, dining rooms, and the Rostov central market and talked with Rostov's citizens. While at the exhibition of food products and consumer goods, he and leaders of the oblast's rayons and cities examined questions of increasing the food production using local resources, consolidating the material and technical base for the storage and processing of agricultural raw materials, and developing the subsidiary farms of citizens, enterprises, and organizations.

A discussion took place at the "Rostselmash" Association on the prospects for developing new grain harvesting and feed procurement equipment and substantially improving its technical standards and reliability.

In the context of preparations for the CPSU Central Committee Plenum, Ye.K. Ligachev met a large group of agro-industrial complex workers. There was an exchange of opinions on problems of the party's agrarian policy.

The secretary of the CPSU Central Committee went to Veshenskaya Village where he visited the M.A. Sholokhov estate museum and other places linked with the great Soviet writer's name.

Ye.K. Ligachev laid flowers at the V.I. Lenin monument in the oblast center and the obelisk in honor of the soldiers who liberated Rostov Oblast in the Great Patriotic war.

During his tour of the oblast Ye.K. Ligachev was accompanied by B.M. Volodin and oblispolkom chairman N.D. Pivovarov.

Razumovskiy Addresses Kursk Conference

PM2612173588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 88 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report under the rubric "At the Party Conferences": "Stepping up Party Work More Persistently"]

[Text] The oblast report and election party conference held in Kursk 23-24 December was a serious test for Kursk Oblast Communists. A test—which they are taking with the eyes of the people on them—of their political maturity, their prestige among the masses, and their ability to translate the concept of restructuring, elaborated by the party, into practical actions.

The conference was attended by G.P. Razumovskiy, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

A.I. Seleznev, first secretary of the Kursk party obkom, in his report, and conference delegates who submitted written requests to the presidium to be allowed to address the conference, including P.N. Kanygin, team leader at the Kursk "Elektroagregat" science-and-production association; V.P. Burchik, first secretary of the Shchigrovskiy CPSU Raykom; M.S. Shirkov, chairman of the Lgovskiy rayon "40 let Oktyabrya" kolkhoz, and many other speakers pursued in their speeches the task of clearly defining the progress achieved by the oblast party organization in the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the guidelines of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference for the reform of the political system and the further democratization of the life of the party and society. While acknowledging what has been achieved, the Communists focused their main attention on omissions in their work and on a critical analysis of their causes and roots, outlining ways of rectifying mistakes and overcoming difficulties and shortcomings. A committed, principled, and businesslike discussion took place.

G.P. Razumovskiy addressed the conference participants. He said, in particular:

Communists regard the current report and election campaign in the party as a direct continuation of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference. Our party debate must, naturally, also follow these lines.

We are currently standing on the threshold of a new year, and our desire to look back on the outgoing year is only natural, the speaker went on. First of all it must be noted that even by the standards of our dynamic times it was a year which was unusually packed with major events and transformations, a year when new tens of millions of people joined in the restructuring processes.

We can best appreciate what a distance has been covered during this year of restructuring if we take a look at ourselves: The party, the initiator and main motive force of renewal has undergone profound changes during this time. How many innovations have become established in every party organization! More in some than in others, but they have taken place in literally every organization. Many people have revealed themselves as active champions of innovations, have joined in political and party work.

During this period the party has grown as a leading social detachment, grown above all politically and ideologically, and strengthened organizationally. Positive changes are noticeable at all levels. This is because a complex task is being tackled which has been posed to Communists by life itself—the task of restructuring themselves and spearheading the restructuring of society.

Objectively, our society is now going through a transitional stage of development when old problems are intertwined with new tasks. A sober understanding of the actual situation and the prevailing contradictions is called upon to provide us with correct guidelines for our work, to help us to realize how intensively and purposefully we must work now. It would be ideal, of course, if we had a well-adjusted economic and political system from which to tackle the tasks of the comprehensive mobilization of the reserves of socialism in order to progress further. However, history has not provided us with this chance.

Therefore I would like to stress once again that all party and soviet organs, all Communists, and the entire aktiv must persistently strive for the implementation of all the social reforms which ensure the steady and consistent molding of the Leninist image of socialism in our country. At the same time it is necessary to attend effectively and without delay also to the vast range of practical questions on which the improvement of the working people's living conditions depends now.

All this makes it necessary to sharply step up the activities of party committees and party organizations, introduce serious corrections in this work, and appreciably raise the demands made on the standard of their leadership and their vanguard role in the restructuring. This is particularly topical in the sphere of economic and social development—the material basis of society's renewal.

The situation taking shape here is far from simple. It is possible to note that the economic restructuring is beginning to yield its first positive results: Economic growth is largely determined by intensive factors. The higher national income growth rate has been assured through higher labor productivity. The output of livestock products is increasing. As a rule, success is being achieved wherever economic accountability has made its mark, wherever the number of contract collectives is increasing, and where family and lease contracts are being developed.

Noting that the general economic trends are reflected relatively fully in Kursk Oblast's industry and the agrarian sector, the Central Committee secretary went on to analyze certain problems in the effort to enhance the efficiency of the region's national economic complex.

There is not, nor can there be, any cause for complacency, he said. The positive processes taking place in the economy have not yet become firmly established, nor have they reached the necessary scale, especially if judged by the level of the satisfaction of people's requirements. Yet this is the main yardstick, the main criterion for assessing our work. One of the relatively important reasons for insufficiently rapid progress seems to be the following. The struggle for the new economic mechanism, intensification, reconstruction, and the introduction of scientific and technical achievements is not yet persistent or purposeful enough. Serious concern is being caused by indifference, lack of initiative, and the low level of responsibility and labor discipline which can still be witnessed.

Further G.P. Razumovskiy dwelt on social policy problems. Although attention is being paid to them in the oblast, the—in theory—strong social policy is not yet strong enough in practice to have removed food supply problems and ensured the dynamic solution of questions pertaining to the provision of high-grade services and housing. Work to provide social amenities in the countryside is still poor in the oblast. This is utterly intolerable and efforts must be made to improve the situation.

Not much time has passed since the the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, but there is already sufficient reason to describe it as an historic event, a watershed, the speaker said further. In the spirit of Leninist traditions and relying on the experience accumulated since the Central Committee April Plenum and the 27th CPSU Congress, it carried out a comprehensive, critical analysis of the progress of transformations, enriched their strategy, concretized their tactics, and outlined the means, forms, and methods of the party's work in present conditions. The conference provided the answer to the most burning question which leaves no civic-minded citizen indifferent: What should be done, and how, at the stage of the practical implementation of the concepts of restructuring in order to ensure the steady and continuous progress of this large-scale process.

The fundamental conclusion reached by the conference is this: The next point on the agenda after the radical economic reform is a no less radical reform of the political system. It must not be delayed; it cannot be put off until later, because otherwise restructuring will founder on the imperfections and and obsolescence of political institutions.

Here too it is difficult to overestimate the importance of the events which were at the focus of attention of our public during the past fall—the nationwide discussion of the draft laws on amendments and additions to the country's Constitution and on elections of the USSR people's deputies, and, above all, the CPSU Central Committee November Plenum and the extraordinary 12th session of the Supreme Soviet and the decisions they adopted. A major step forward has been taken in the implementation of the ideas of the 19th party conference. The results of the nationwide discussion and the proceedings of the plenum and the session are evidence of the support for the political changes proposed by the CPSU Central Committee and the strengthening of the positions of restructuring.

The adopted laws on the reorganization of the supreme state organs and the electoral system are in the mainstream of the political reform. On the instructions of the USSR Supreme Soviet, normative acts are being elaborated aimed at the consolidation of the guarantees of restructuring and the implementation of a legal reform. In the offing are laws on local soviets, on the harmonization of relations between the center and the republics, and on improving interethnic relations. All these questions will be gradually resolved in the course of implementing the reform of the political system.

The electoral campaign, as a result of which the supreme organs of state power will be formed, is gathering momentum. It will largely determine the political climate in the country and involve in state affairs people who are capable of truly expressing the people's interests. With a view to this, it is necessary to develop party-political work more flexibly and persistently, and to constantly retain the initiative in the hands of the party. The entire election preparations must be conducted in a new fashion, on a genuinely democratic basis, relying on the great activeness of the working people and bearing in mind the need to organize matters in such a way as to ensure the free expression of will by all citizens at all the stages of the electoral process.

The great force of restructuring and renewal are the masses of the working people with party organizations and Communists as their vanguard. Hence the obligation of the party to apply stricter criteria to assessing its condition, to ensure that party leadership is truly democratic and that there is no foot-dragging in the process of the transition of all the party's links to political methods. It is possible to confidently claim that the report and election meetings in the party represent an important stage in the renewal of the party on Leninist principles and the democratization of its life.

The greater activeness and critical focus of Communists and the broad participation in the campaign of nonparty people are indisputable. The elections of leading organs and party leaders were lively and committed. The elections revealed serious changes in the party masses' attitude toward elections: Communists have truly sensed their responsibility for the outcome of the elections and their importance for the future work of party organizations and each party member. They made extensive use of their right to recommend specific comrades to superior organs.

Great activeness and a lack of stage management characterized many rayon, city, oblast, and kray party conferences. Frequently heated discussions took place at the conferences. A considerable place was taken up by questions of the restructuring of party work, mastering of political methods, and improvement of party workers' style of work. Practical experience has revealed that the prestige of party committees and party organizations and their work is largely determined by the extent to which their assessments and self-assessments reflect the true state of affairs.

The revolutionary transformations which are under way in the country have further strengthened people's faith in restructuring. Their labor and social activeness, morale, and readiness to spare no effort for the sake of the lofty goals are rising. It is the duty and obligation of party organizations to generate the energy of renewal and to march in the vanguard of the working people, G.P. Razumovskiy stressed in conclusion.

While visiting Kursk Oblast 22-24 December, G.P. Razumovskiy toured the "Rossiya" kolkhoz in Oktyabrskiy Rayon. Attention during the conversation with leaders of this multisector farm focused mainly on the working man and the problem of halting the outflow of people from the countryside. It was noted with gratification that the kolkhoz is actively engaged in housing construction. New individual homes for kolkhoz members with outbuildings are a true sign of good prospects, testifying to people's desire to settle down.

There was talk about ways to make peasants more interested in highly productive labor and to cultivate their love for the land. In this context, emphasis was placed on the importance of developing lease contracts.

The topic of man and nature occupied a major position during the conversation. A sensible treatment of the land and the peasant's conscientious and skilled interaction with nature in his field—this is the correct path to guaranteed stable harvests.

While visiting the "Khimvolokno" production association in Kursk, G.P. Razumovskiy inquired in detail about the activity of labor collective councils, the progress of preparations for transition to the second model of economic accountability, and the solution of social questions. It was noted that it is necessary to step up the quest for avenues to improve technology and equipment. The enterprise' planned reconstruction should result not only in a substantial increase of production volumes but also in improvement of the quality of output to a level which would enable the association to confidently enter the external market.

When he visited the fruit and vegetable trade and purchasing base, the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee saw for himself the results of initiative when solving problems, which is typical for many of the country's cities. This is a matter of supplying city residents with vegetables and fruit and safely storing agrocultural produce. The base staff managed to get designers interested in cooperation. The result of the creative quest was to develop efficient equipment, which has significantly alleviated the labor of workers at the base and has ensured a high degree of produce preservation. There has been a great reduction in the number of people recruited from the city for seasonal work. The former loss-making enterprise is becoming profitable. The building of new storage facilities is under way here.

The secretary of the CPSU Central Committee visited trade enterprises and social and cultural facilities in Kursk and the oblast and was briefed on the organization of health services.

There was a conversation with first secretaries of the oblast's party gorkoms and raykoms.

He laid flowers at the V.I. Lenin monument and the monument to Kursk's heroes in Kursk.

G.P. Razumovskiy was accompanied by A.I. Seleznev, first secretary of the Kursk CPSU Obkom, and oblispolkom chairman G.A. Bereznikov.

Solovyev Re-Elected Leningrad Obkom Head

LD2412164488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] The report which Comrade Solovyev made at the Leningrad Oblast party conference was noted with deep critical analysis. At an obkom plenum to consider organizational questions, he was elected first secretary of the oblast party committee.

VOA Report on Latvian Emigre Meeting Cited

PM2212092588 Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 16 Dec 88 p 4

[Reprint from Riga CINA in Latvian 15 December 1988: "From a VOA Broadcast"]

[Excerpts] Never before have we printed an account of a VOA broadcast in this newspaper. However, life is moving on, glasnost, the diversity of information, and the plurality of ideas and opinions are increasingly making themselves felt in our daily life.

And so what did VOA tell its listeners on Monday night:

"On Saturday we already reported on the first extraordinary congress of OLA (Association of Latvians in America—editorial note), which was convened in connection with the special events in Latvia. (Footnote: OLA is a highly influential organization of Latvian emigres in the United States. The leadership of OLA periodically organizes campaigns against detente and is constantly exhorting people not to recognize Soviet Latvia. OLA leaders believe that emigres' trips to Riga and cultural ties with Soviet Latvia should be used exclusively for the purpose of propagandizing the "doctrine of nonrecognition of the Baltic republics" which is traditional in the United States.) This string of events culminated in the congress of the Popular Front of Latvia which was held in Riga. I. Klyava and K. Ozols are at the microphone now to tell you about the meeting held in Washington Saturday.

"Father Kristaps Valters opened the first extraordinary OLA Congress, which was attended by 118 delegates, with the prayer 'Spare, preserve, and liberate Latvia!' In all, more than 150 Latvians came together for the congress in Washington 10 December, including Linards Luks from Canada, chairman of the OSLM (World Association of Free Latvians—editorial note), former OLA chairmen Professor Peteris Leinsh, Uldis Grava, Ilgvars Spilners, and Olgerts Pavlovskis, and also many guests from Latvia including at least three members of the Popular Front of Latvia. (Footnote: The OSLM plays a leading role among Latvian emigre organizations in organizing anti-Soviet activities. It comprises five regional organizations based in the United States, Canada, Australia, Latin America, and West Europe. The OSLM regards the restoration of a bourgeois system in Latvia as its main political aim.) The presence of the guests from Latvia added a topical and unusual touch to the congress. Opening the extraordinary congress Valdis Pavlovskis, chairman of OLA, declared that it had been convened for a single purpose—to determine how we, American Latvians, can assist the movement for a free and independent Latvia. [passage omitted]

"Welcoming the guests from Latvia, Valdis Pavlovskis, chairman of OLA, recalled that the Popular Front of Latvia had invited OLA to attend its congress, but OLA had been unsuccessful in obtaining Moscow's permission to travel to Riga. Now we are able to welcome Sandra Kalniyete, secretary and member of the Duma of the Popular Front of Latvia, and Edvin Inkens, member of the Duma of the Popular Front of Latvia and chairman of its foreign relations commission, at our congress here.

"Addressing the OLA congress, which welcomed her with a standing ovation, Sandra Kalniyete said that she was delighted that the world had changed so much that she was able to attend the extraordinary OLA congress. Then Kalniyete reported on the Popular Front of Latvia which unites various organizations, formed recently, which all serve one purpose—the Latvian people. She said that she attached particular importance to the plenum of creative workers held 1 June, which was based on cooperation among representatives of various professions—artists, writers, and even representatives of the clergy—and she emphasized the contribution of Father Rubenis and the poet Peters. Among the successes that have been achieved, Kalniyete listed the permission to use Latvian symbols—the red-white-red flag and the anthem. The process of democratization has contributed to the establishment of various professional associations. Answering a question about local support groups for the Popular Front of Latvia, Sandra Kalniyete said:

"'Unquestionably, we do need support groups. They would not be an encumbrance. However, another circumstance could be. For instance, if these Newly established support groups of the Popular Front of Latvia drove a wedge into Latvian society or if they regarded themselves as the only exponents of the correct point of view. I believe that the most important thing is to preserve, even in exile, this coordination and this unity. And, probably, something that we cannot accept from a specific individual organization, we would be able to accept from support groups of the Popular Front of Latvia. And the manner and extent to which a support group in Canada, or the United States, or the FRG cooperates with other Latvian organizations in exile is an internal matter for that group, as the rules of the Popular Front of Latvia permit cooperation with any public organization as long as it does not oppose the Popular Front program.'

"Then Sandra Kalniyete invited everyone to attend the 20th Song Festival in Riga in 1990, noting that the numbering of the song festivals has been restored and that the song festival will have a Latvian program. The extraordinary OLA congress was also addressed by Edvins Inkens. He reported on the situation in Latvia and gave an account of the activities of the Popular Front of Latvia. He also spoke about the need for support and cooperation with compatriots abroad. Answering a question about whether organizations in Lithuania and Estonia are interested in this kind of support Edvins Inkens said:

"'I know that the Estonians, and specifically the Popular Front of Estonia, are receiving such assistance. The concept of the economic development of Estonia in conditions of economic independence has been largely elaborated by, or with the assistance of, Estonian specialists living in the West. That on the one hand. But do you want to know why there are difficulties? You are well aware that many Latvian emigre organizations were for years described in our country as accomplices of imperialism and so on. And so? People have not yet entirely shaken this off. These stigmas survive in some people's consciousness and will, no doubt, be used against us! I believe that this has not made a big impression on the Latvian audience, but we live in the republic and we cannot disregard the opinion of the other people living on the territory of Latvia. And therefore it would be very harmful to us if we were branded as supplicants, so to speak, if it were said that Uncle Sam was supporting us, because behind the broad back of Uncle Sam there are, of course, all kind of other organizations which have nothing else in mind but to topple Soviet power, and so forth. It is a delicate question and you must approach it with the necessary understanding. You know, it is all very well to say that we are under occupation, and therefore hard done by. But that is very remote from a sense of political realism. People have come to me and said that it is not necessary to fight for the Latvian language; after all, it does exist—one way or another, the Latvians have their own language, of course, so why should we make fools of ourselves and issue demands: It is humiliating for us to have to demand that our language be recognized as the state language! Yes, it is unpleasant, I agree. But if it is not protected by law, it will disappear!'

"This is what Edvins Inkens, chairman of the Popular Front of Latvia foreign relations commission, who works on the Riga Television 'Labvakar' program, said at the OLA Congress. [passage omitted]

"We conclude this review by reproducing the full text of the final document drawn up by the committee for drafting the resolution:

"'The first extraordinary OLA congress held 10 December 1988, having followed events in occupied Latvia since 14 June 1987, has arrived at the following conclusions:

"'First, the congress greatly appreciates the stance of the Latvian patriots in Latvia who uphold the rights of the Latvian people in the political, cultural, and economic spheres and whose ultimate aim it is to restore Latvia's independence;

"'second, in order to translate these plans into reality, OLA must mobilize all forces, resources, and possibilities with the aim of providing support for the striving for freedom in the fatherland, and it must also continue to brief the U.S. Government and Congress on the Latvian people's aspirations to independence and the manifestations of those aspirations;

"'third, the occupation of Latvia took place in accordance with the agreement signed 23 August 1939 between Nazi Germany and the USSR. The Latvian people must demand the annulment of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact in Berlin, Bonn, and Moscow;

"'fourth, the congress recognizes that there is only one Latvian people with a common past, common culture, and a common political future in a restored rule-of-law state based on the historical rights and traditions of the Latvian people living both in our own land and among the civilized peoples of the West. God bless Latvia!'"

[SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA] Postscript. The editorial office appologizes for the low standard of Latvian language—we are well aware that the VOA editorial office has its own difficulties in this sphere.

[The following six paragraphs are attributed to radio listeners]

Are these events not an attempt on the part of the Popular Front of Latvia to ally itself with the reactionary wing of the Latvian emigration? Anyone who takes the slightest interest in these matters knows whom the OLA and the OSLM represent.

Was the delegation of the Popular Front of Latvia officially invited to attend this gathering? How can you explain that Sandra Kalniyete, senior secretary and member of the Duma of the Popular Front of Latvia; Communist Edvins Inkens, member of the Duma of the Popular Front of Latvia and chairman of its foreign relations commission; and the third, unnamed, representative of the Popular Front of Latvia fortuitously managed, all three of them, to be in the same place at the same time?

It is obvious from the report that Sandra Kalniyete and Edvins Inkens reported on the domestic political situation in the Latvian SSR, and it is not difficult to grasp that the participants in the gathering, including the aforementioned representatives of the Popular Front of Latvia, discussed questions of the gradual liquidation of Soviet power in Soviet Latvia and Latvia's withdrawal from the USSR.

Sandra Kalniyete, Edvins Inkens, and the third, unnamed, representative of the Popular Front of Latvia will, of course, be able to give us more details about this gathering on their return home, and to throw light on much that is not clear.

Meanwhile just a few questions in connection with the report: What are the nature and content of the extraordinary information and exchange programs for which the OLA is prepared to provide an additional $100,000? Is it perhaps to fund the attainment of the proclaimed "ultimate aim"? Are aims of this kind in keeping with the proclaimed program of the Popular Front of Latvia? Or does the Popular Front of Latvia perhaps assess this kind of action as part of the polemics within the principled framework of socialist pluralism?

And, finally, it would be interesting to know how the party organization of the Latvian Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting assesses the activities of its member—the Communist Edvins Inkens—on the other side of the Atlantic.

This material which was published in the newspaper CINA 15 December has been reprinted at the request of our readers Ya. Ankuzis, G. Balodis, L. Uvarova, and many others who telephoned the editorial office yesterday.

Supreme Soviet Commissions Cite Ecology Problems
LD2212211988 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 22 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A joint session of the commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet on nature protection and the rational utilization of natural resources has been held in the Kremlin. [video shows officials at work seated at long tables]

The question under consideration is observance of the demands for nature protection legislation by the enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification. The deputies drew the attention of the minister, Comrade Mayorets, to the uncritical assessment of the state of affairs in solving ecological problems. Mistakes made in the past are being eliminated very slowly. Many enterprises have still not drawn up urgent programs to protect nature. Capacities are continuing to be put into service without the necessary nature-protection installations. Power industry plans are being adopted without account being taken of the views of the local soviets and the public at large. [video shows close-up of Mayorets]

Criticism was also expressed against the USSR State Planning Committee, the USSR Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine-Building, the USSR Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine-Building, and other departments which are not doing enough to create new equipment to make discharges into the atmosphere harmless.

In a decision of the commissions it is proposed that the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification should take specific measures to instill order at existing enterprises and to pay more attention to solving ecological problems in respect of the long-term development of the industry.

The commission also examined matters connected with a request by USSR Supreme Soviet deputies over the construction and reconstruction of the Zavolzhskiy chemical works and its possible grave effect on the ecological situation in the vicinity of the Ostrovskiy house-museum at Shchelykovo. Taking note of the explanation by Comrade Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, the commission agreed that the USSR Council of Ministers should make the final decision on the construction and reconstruction of Zavolzhskiy chemical works with account being taken of this discussion. [video shows close-up of Gusev]

Comrade Lukyanov also took part in the session. [video shows close-up of Lukyanov]

Scientific

'Molniya-3' Communications Satellite Launched
LD2312075188 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0735 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, 23 Dec (TASS)—The launching of a regular communications satellite "Molniya-3" by a "Molniya" carrier-rocket was carried out in the Soviet Union on 22 December with the purpose of ensuring the operation of the long-distance telephone-telegraph radiocommunications system and the transmission of USSR central Television programs to points on the "Orbita" network, and for the purpose of international cooperation.

The satellite has been placed in an orbit with an apogee of 39,042 kilometers in the northern hemisphere and a perigee of 477 kilometers in the southern hemisphere. The period of rotation of the satellite is 11 hours and 40 minutes and the inclination of orbit is 62.7 degrees.

Communications sessions with the "Molniya-3" satellite will be conducted in accordance with the set program.

'Cosmos-1985' Satellite Launched 23 Dec
LD2312142788 Moscow TASS in English 1423 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—A Tsiklon (cyclone) booster rocket launched another Cosmos-series satellite in the Soviet Union on Friday.

Cosmos-1985, which is designed to continue space exploration, was delivered on an orbiting path with the following parameters:

Initial period of revolution - 95.2 minutes,

Maximum distance from earth - 549 kilometers,

Minimum distance - 529 kilometers,

Inclination - 73.6 degrees.

The on-board equipment is functioning normally.

'Mir' Flight Proceeding Normally 24 Dec

LD2412062488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0304 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] The flight of the "Mir" scientific and research complex continues. It is a day off in the near-earth orbit today. In the morning the crew will tidy up their space home. Each cosmonaut will spend 2 hours training on the cycle-ergometer and the track. The flight is proceeding normally, Aleksandr Volkov, Sergey Krikalev, and Valeriy Polyakov feel well.

'Progress-39' To Aid Scientific Research

LD2512081888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Now for space news. The automatic cargo craft Progress-39 was launched at 0712 Moscow time [0412 GMT] today. The launch is part of the work program for the scientific research complex Mir. The craft will deliver various freight and materials to the complex.

More on 'Progress-39'

LD2512110488 Moscow TASS in English 1100 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—Today the USSR fired the cargo spacecraft Progress-39 in line with the programme of further work of the space research complex Mir.

The spacecraft will bring various cargoes to the manned Mir station.

The Progress-39 was put into orbit with the following parameters:

Apogee—255 km,

Perigee—193 km,

Period of revolution—88.7 minutes,

Inclination—51.6 degrees.

According to received information, all onboard systems of the ferry spaceship operate normally.

Docks With 'Mir'

LD2712081888 Moscow TASS in English 0753 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 27 TASS—The Progress-39 cargo spaceship docked with the manned orbital complex Mir today at 08:35, Moscow time.

The mutual search, rendezvous, tethering and docking were done by means of the onboard automatic equipment. The processes were monitored by the mission control centre in cooperation with the ground command instrumentation complex as well as by cosmonauts Volkov, Krikalev, and Polyakov.

The Progress-39 docked with the complex from the side of the Kvant module. It has brought fuel for the joint propulsion plant of the orbital station, food, water, equipment, apparatus as well as mail.

According to telemetry data and crew reports, the onboard systems of the manned orbital complex Mir are functioning normally.

Aleksandr Volkov, Sergey Krikalev and Valeriy Polyakov are feeling well.

FRG Minister Cited on Space Cooperation

LD2712120788 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Bonn December 27 TASS—Heinz Riesenhuber, West German minister of research and technology, has described the favourable prospects of Soviet-West German cooperation in space exploration. In an interview with the Cologne- based newspaper EXPRESS he said he hoped that the first joint Soviet-West German space flight would take place no later than in three years.

Riesenhuber voiced a rather unexpected wish concerning a would-be West German cosmonaut. "There are two women among our five candidates. In my opinion it would be highly desirable if a woman took part in the first joint Soviet-West German flight", he said.

Minister Discusses Nuclear Power Development

In Armenia, Elsewhere

LD2312170988 Moscow TASS in English 1659 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—The Soviet Union will continue developing the nuclear power industry with account taken of increasing demands on safety, the industry's Minister Nikolay Lukonin told a news conference on Friday.

He stressed such an advantage of nuclear power stations as their being ecologically safer, when run normally, than those fired by organic fuel. This is especially important now that atmospheric pollution with carbon dioxide and other noxious gases is a sharp issue.

Lukonin said that developing the nuclear power industry is an objective need for the Soviet economy.

This country currently has 16 nuclear power stations with a total of 45 reactors. Their combined capacity is 34.4 million kilowatts.

Together they will generate more than 215 billkon kilowatt-hours of electricity this year, which will come to 12.7 percent of the total production of power nationwide.

Nuclear generating units are being built at another 15 sites.

The sad experience of Chernobyl, Lukonin said, has not been wasted: A package of measures is being carried out in this country to increase safety at existing and newly-designed nuclear power stations and sites for such projects are being selected more carefully.

Design or construction work on nuclear power stations in Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Krasnodar area, the second phase of the Armenian nuclear power station and nuclear heat-and-power stations outside Minsk and Odessa has been stoppped due to the high seismicity of those regions and tougher demands now made on such sites.

The Nuclear Power Ministry, its head said, is currently studying options for building nuclear power stations in other parts of the country. This is being done in close contact with local authorities and the public.

Answering reporters' questions about the Armenian nuclear power station after the earthquake on December 7, Lukonin said there has been no damage there and the facility keeps operating normally despite the fact that the tremors in the area measured around force six.

However, considering that some of the station's parameters do not meet modern, tougher, requirements, it was planned even before the quake that its first reactor will be phased out in 1990 and the second in 1991.

After seismologists complete studies in the area, it will be decided finally when to close down the station, which will perhaps be earlier than originally planned.

Explains Halt in Construction

LD2412021888 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Report with recorded excerpts of news conference by Soviet Minister for Atomic Power Nikolay Lukonin in Moscow on 23 December; Lukonin speaking in Russian fading into English translation]

[Text] [First Announcer] Soviet authorities have halted construction of six Soviet nuclear power plants because of seismic conditions or changes in construction standards after the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. This was revealed by the Soviet Minister for Atomic Power Nikolay Lukonin at a press conference in Moscow.

[Second Announcer] He told the press that the electric energy shortfall because of the cancelations totalled 28,000 mw. The deficit would be made up by coal powered or hydroelectric plants until alternative nuclear plant sites were found. Construction work has stopped on water cooled nuclear plants in the southern republic of Azerbaijan, near Minsk the Belorussian capital, outside the Black Sea port of Odessa and at the southern Russian city of Krasnodar. Work on the second stage of nuclear plants in Armenia and in neighboring Georgia, in the Caucasus, has also stopped.

According to the minister, the Armenian plant was jolted by an earthquake shock measuring 6 points on the 12 scale used in the Soviet Union but sustained no damage.

[Begin Lukonin recording] Work continued as usual at the Armenian plant after the quake, the minster said, since the plant had remained intact. The quake itself was immediately reported by the director of the plant to the Ministry in Moscow and inspections were ordered at all the plant's facilities. A group of top experts in construction, plant design, technology, and operations was sent from Moscow to supervise the inspections. The inspections failed to find any damage to the plant. The Armenian plant had been equipped with American and Soviet produced control devices which showed approximately the same readings for pressure sustained by the plant during the quake. And the readings proved the design of the plant to be up to requirements for this seismically active area. [end recording]

[First Announcer] But some of the correspondents at the news conference, on learning that the second stage of the Armenian plant had been canceled, wanted to know what about the first stage.

[Begin recording] [Womack] Helen Womack from THE INDEPENDENT newspaper of London. Could I ask the minister, please, what the long-term plans are for the nuclear station in Armenia?

[Lukonin] This matter, the minister answered, is under consideration by our seismic specialists. Additional seismic instruments have been installed at the plant. The final decision will be made when the scientists obtain all the relevant data. But as of now, we can say that the station proved to be properly built and the fact that it rests on a solid rock foundation has added to its safety. But we'll have to consider anew every bit of information about the plant and its environment, the minister said. We won't take any risks with it. [end recording]

[First announcer] The minister was pressed further on this issue by the correspondent of THE LOS ANGELES TIMES.

[Begin recording] [LOS ANGELES TIMES correspondent] Just to clarify your response to the last question, minster, if we might. We understood that Premier Ryzhkov had said that the station would be closed in response to the request of the population of Armenia. Has that decision been taken or is it being considered, or has it not been taken? What is the precise status of the plant?

[Lukonin] The Armenian plant was designed and built according to standards now considered outdated. Recent years have seen much stricter regulations fixed in nuclear power plant building. So it's quite natural that some of the station's facilities do not correspond to present-day requirements. Hence, even before the quake, the question was raised about the plant's future. The first power block on the station had been slated for closure in 1990 and the second in 1991. But if the present seismic research proves it necessary, the station could be closed ahead of schedule, as the Soviet Prime Minster Nikolay Ryzhkov has said. [end recording]

Lukonin News Conference

LD2412223588 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2100 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] We present excerpts from a news conference today about the state of nuclear power generation in the USSR and the prospects for its development. Those taking part in the news conference are Nikolay Fedorovich Lukonin, USSR nuclear power industry minister; Vladimir Aleksandrovich Korovkin, director of the Rovno nuclear power station; Morris Rosen, director of the Nuclear Safety Department of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA; and Ferdinand Franzen, section head in of the Nuclear Safety Department of the IAEA.

[L.V. Chernenko, identified by nameplate] The latest meeting with the press, organized by the USSR Council of Minister Information Department and the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration is devoted to problems of nuclear power generation.

[N.F. Lukonin] Esteemed comrades, ladies and gentlemen; today I would like to tell you briefly about the state of nuclear power generation in the USSR and the prospects for its development. The fundamental concept of the priority long-term development of nuclear power generation in regions where this is economically effective and necessary under the conditions of the fuel and power balance, a concept which has been formulated in the USSR power program must be retained and implemented with due regard for increasing requirements for the safety of energy sources to be raised further. A special session of the general conference of the IAEA, in September 1986 in Vienna, examined a program for establishing international conditions for the safe development of nuclear power generation and laid down practical measures for the safety of nuclear power stations and for providing protection for the health of the population and for the environment. The agency is making wide use of the very important and effective so-called Osart program for working out recommendations on raising the operational safety of nuclear power stations. In December of this year, a group of international experts completed an inquiry into the Rovno nuclear power station under this program.

[Chernenko] Mr Rosen has the floor:

[Rosen, in English with superimposed Russian translation] As far as the IAEA is concerned, our 3-week mission to the nuclear power station at Rovno was an important event. It was the first visit to the Soviet Union by such a group. The experts reached the conclusion that the station is operating safely; moreover, the people working there are high-class professionals and priority is given to safety issues. The group of experts also noted that protection against radiation and also the ecological aspects of the activity of the Rovno nuclear power station are within the framework of international standards. There is no negative influence upon the environment or upon the population living around the nuclear power station. The training system at Rovno is based upon the national education system and it ensures a higher level of professional workers than is the case in a number of other countries. All of this led to outstanding results. The operation is carried out at a high professional level. However, our group stresses the necessity of making systematic use of the appropriate procedures for ensuring the safety of the station's activity. The emergency situation surveillance center is located in a basement room at the station and is in excellent condition.

[ASAHI correspondent] ASAHI newspaper, Japan. A question for Mr Lukonin: Please tell us in detail about the condition of the nuclear power station in Armenia following the earthquake.

[Lukonin] The Armenian station continued to work after the earthquake. There was no destruction. The very clear-cut actions by the staff both of the Armenian station and also the Razdan GRES have to be noted. There was no panic; the staff acted precisely and was at its work-stations.

[Unidentified female correspondent, in English with superimposed Russian translation] What are the long-term prospects with regard to the atomic, nuclear power station in Armenia?

[Lukonin] The station was designed and was built according to the old standards. Over the past few years the standards have been tightened up and, of course, where some individual parameters are concerned the station does not meet present-day requirements. This question was examined, therefore, even before the earthquake took place and it was envisaged that the first set would be taken out of operation in 1990 and that the second set would be taken out in 1991. As I have already said, the time scale for halting the work of this station will be finally fixed according to the results of the work that seismological specialists are currently carrying out. It is possible that it will be halted earlier than the time scales that had been mapped out, as was said by Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov.

[Unidentified reporter] Present-day science is unable to provide a precise answer to any one of the three main questions where earthquakes are concerned—exactly when, where, and indeed with what strength will an earthquake strike? To some extent, the maps containing forecasts are theoretical. In this connection, does Minister Lukonin consider it to be possible to continue building the Crimean nuclear power station while studies, as you have said, are being carried out, or are some other solutions needed, bearing in mind the seismic conditions and the irreplaceable resort?

[Lukonin] About the Crimean nuclear power station, seismological specialists already discussed this question when we were in Armenia. We are now conducting talks with a number of foreign firms with a view to their carrying out studies in the neighborhood of the Crimean nuclear power station. In any event, we will not start up the set at the Crimean station as long as we do not know exactly the maximum earthquake and consequently the design to which it should be built. But in visiting the regions that were hit in Armenia we convinced ourselves once again of the fact that the quality of construction and the quality of design must be high.

[Unidentified reporter] You mentioned the Krasnodar nuclear power station, construction of which has been stopped. As far as I know a decision has been made to build a large coal-fired GRES there which doubtlessly will cause considerably more harm to the adjacent territories than the nuclear power station if it operates normally. That is my first point. And the second point is this: Why—or how—is the shortfall in power in Krasnodar going to be covered? Enterprises there are now working under a schedule with days off on Monday, Tuesday and so on—their timetable has been disrupted. Is there any alternative solution today?

[Rosen] There are issues like radiation, the environment, and the public reaction in the Soviet Union, and—I have to say it—not just in the Soviet Union, but on a worldwide scale. There is simply a lack of understanding by the public on issues connected with radiation, of the fact that radiation is a fact of life.

We have visited many coal-fired stations in Europe, and the radiation produced by such stations is far greater than that from nuclear stations. The public does not have an understanding of this. Such stations release between two and four times as much radioactivity into the air as does a nuclear power station. But the radiation is small in both cases. It is less than 1 percent of the amount we receive simply by living, so to speak, on this planet. That is to say, this radioactivity is less than 1 percent. If you make one journey by air in the course of a year, then the radiation you will receive, the quantity of it will exceed any amount of radiation you can receive if you live alongside any nuclear power station.

As far as the Soviet Union and the world community as a whole are concerned, it is essential to understand the radiation problem and what it amounts to, and it is also necessary to understand the other energy sources' impact on health.

[Lukonin] The supply of electrical power is under pressure in the North Caucasus and in the Transcaucasus; and it is only going to be possible to make up the shortage that will come about as industry and agriculture develop and as consumption of electrical power rises—given the fact that the Krasnodar nuclear power station is not going to be built—it is only going to be possible to do this through the commissioning of additional capacities at thermal power stations.

[Unidentified reporter] My first question is to the director of the Rovno station. What does he think about the recommendations that have been given by the IAEA commission, over what period of time can they be carried out? Can they be carried out in full? In order to do so, will it be necessary to purchase automatic equipment of some kinds overseas—this is something that has been mentioned in particular—or will some alternative solutions be found? I would like to ask Nikolay Fedorovich Lukonin about how the halting of a station and the removal of some projects will be reflected in the fulfillment of the indicators published earlier for the development of nuclear power generation in the country in the immediate future?

And my last question is for the IAEA representatives: The world public is currently voicing the greatest alarm over the burial of radioactive waste. Do the specialists consider that the methods of burial that exist at the present time are effective or is some active research and work necessary here?

[Lukonin] A whole salvo of questions!

[Korovkin] The conclusions and recommendations of the IAEA on the whole did not come as a surprise for us. Work has been carried out by us in this area. They have merely backed up the station's workers regarding the correctness of the methods and pattern of work that they have chosen on all the issues that have been noted in the proposals made by the mission. Within what time scale can it be carried out? There is an order, it sets out specific time-scales, in the main they do not go beyond the year 1991. As far as the possibility of covering all these comments either with the country's own resources or from abroad, I believe that we do have sufficient strength and resources to resolve everything within the confines of the country.

[Lukonin] What will be the effect of this on the program? In total we have lost 28 million kilowatts of capacity installed at those sites where we have ceased planning and construction of nuclear power stations. This will certainly have an effect because additional time is required for finding new sites and organizing construction bases. And the total amount is 28 million kilowatts.

[Rosen] I would like to add to what was said earlier about the burial of radio active waste that as far as nuclear power stations are concerned we can give you some figures, for example there is solid waste, and that is what the public is primarily worried about. The nuclear power station uses modern technological means to reduce the volume of these wastes. In the first place in terms of quantity this waste is not great and if, for example, one takes the waste of a major nuclear power station over several years of operation, then all of that could be placed in here behind the table on the platform. Other types of waste are much larger in size than nuclear waste. Chemical waste, for example, or mercury waste do not decay in any way. It remains there forever. Radioactive waste, on the other hand, decays.

[Lukonin] Permit me to thank you for your attention. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all those colleagues who are present a happy new year, good health, and all the very best! May nuclear power generation throughout the world function in a reliable fashion! [Video shows six men seated at a table on a platform facing an audience of journalists: identified from name plates in front of each of them they are, as they appear from left to right across the screen Yu.A. Gremitskikh; F. Franzen; M. Rosen; N.F.Lukonin; V.A. Korovkin; and L.V. Chernenko]

IAEA Team Approves Rovno AES Operation

PM2312152788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
23 Dec 88 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Inspection At Rovno AES"]

[Text] Rovno, 22 Dec—An IAEA group examining matters of operational safety completed its work today at the local AES.

"The Rovno AES is the first Soviet nuclear power station to be the subject of a comprehensive and authoritative study by the group," its leader, F. Franzen, said. "We consider that its personnel are treating their duties with due responsibility. The specialists' skills meet world standards. The radiation situation at the station and on the adjoining territory is normal. The front-ranking experience of operation of the Rovno AES could be of use to other countries developing nuclear energy."

Expedition Flagship Arrives in Antarctic

LD2612235988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
2200 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Summary] The MV "Akademik Fedorov" flagship of the 34th Soviet Antarctic expedition recently arrived off the shores of the sixth continent, and is carrying out transport operations in the vicinity of Druzhba-3 base on the coast of the Weddel Sea. IL-14 planes are being used as flying labs by the geologists and geophysicists. They will be making a radar survey of the subglacial relief.

Unloading is finished, the ship will sail to More Kosmonavtov. The crew and polar team will see in the New Year at Molodezhnaya.

Military

Yazov Meets With Soviet Forces in GDR

Address on Restructuring

LD2412013888 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1800 GMT 23 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The 19th party conference of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany was held today in Wuensdorf in the GDR.

[Correspondent V.Mostovoy] The Army Communists discussed the results of the work done by political-command cadres, party organizations, and the entire personnel to fulfill the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th all-union conference and the party Central Committee decisions on defense matters. Taking part in the conference was Army General Yazov, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of defense of the USSR. In his speech, he said, inter alia:

[Begin Yazov recording] The Army and Navy are being restructured along the lines of the all-party policies. It should be noted that the restructuring processes are evident today in the group of forces in Germany as well. The activities of the military soviets and of the leading political-command cadres are now more concrete and businesslike. Democracy and glasnost are becoming established in the sevicemen's collectives and party organizations are becoming more active and combative. On the whole, reactions to shortcomings are now sharper. It must be stated bluntly, however, that the new elements in the activities of political-command cadres and party bodies, engendered by the restructuring, have not yet produced any perceptible improvement in the overall results for troop training and reinforcing discipline. In day-to-day life, one comes across instances of irresponsibility, placidity, formalism, and bureaucratism, which are not being given principled assessments in the party organizations. The main reason for this is that many have yet to realize that the restructuring means, above all, a new quality of work by each individual person in the work entrusted to him. Many today feel as if they are at a rally, not realizing that a new stage in the restructuring began long ago—a stage of intense practical work, a stage of concrete action. It is fairly common to find people who have learned how to talk in a new way, but work the old way, that is, without due responsibility and initiative. Such people are prisoners of inertia, routine, and placidity. The principal substance of the restructuring in the Armed Forces is the implementation of the demands made by the 19th party conference which call for giving priority to qualitative parameters in military construction. What is it that makes up our daily round in military construction? It's combat training. The orientation towards qualitative parameters concerns all sections of the Armed Forces and every Army and Navy Party organization. What we need today is a sharp change in people's psychology and a decisive struggle against the deep-rooted habit of tackling all issues on the basis of quantitative rather than qualitative parameters. Lenin's behest 'Better less but better' is topical today as never before. [end recording] [video shows Yazov addressing a hall full of uniformed servicemen]

More on Yazov Address

PM2612133188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Dec 88 Second Edition p 2

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondents Colonel A. Vasilets, Lieutenant Colonel I. Kosenko report under the rubric "Party Conferences": "Restructuring Requires Action"]

[Text] As has already been reported, a party conference has been held in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. The report—delivered by Colonel General N. Moiseyev, chief of the group's Political Directorate—and the speeches by Communists B. Snetkov, A. Mityukhin, A. Prygunov, A. Tkachenko, V. Semeryak, K. Shapkin, V. Agafonov, G. Kobuk, V. Telyechko, and others analyzed the work performed by the group's Political Directorate, party commission, party committees, bureaus, and Communists in the course of restructuring. A principled, critical discussion took place in a highly businesslike atmosphere of exactingness.

At the same time it is impossible not to remark that certain speeches were in the nature of "self-reports," and that the criticism had no target. Individual speakers—air crew delegates in particular—were insufficiently self-critical in evaluating their work to strengthen discipline.

Army General D. Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, took part in the work of the conference and also spoke at it.

After remarking on the specific feature of the times in which the conference was taking place, the defense minister dwelt on foreign policy issues. He said that restructuring and the new political thinking are today determining the entire foreign policy activity of our party and state. Convincing confirmation of this was Comrade M.S. Gorbachev's recent speech at the United Nations. The Soviet initiatives have literally rocked the entire world. They are filled with great vital force and meet mankind's innermost aspirations. Their chief aim is to put an end to the era of wars and confrontation.

However—the defense minister stressed—many political figures in the West have greeted the Soviet proposals, including the decisions on reducing the USSR's Armed Forces, in an ambiguous fashion. Some people have designated them propaganda, others promptly urged their own countries and peoples and their allies to keep their powder dry—and their powder magazines and their nuclear arsenals intact.

The disarmament process and the movement toward a nonnuclear and nonviolent world have not yet become irreversible and are encountering powerful resistance. Under these conditions the chief task for us Army Communists remains that of maintaining the combat readiness and combat capability of the Army and Navy at a level ensuring the prevention of war and the reliable repulsion of possible aggression in any circumstances.

The announced reduction in the Armed Forces should be viewed in unbreakable unity with the realization of the 19th party conference guidelines on the priority of qualitative parameters in military building.

As has been announced, six tank divisions will be withdrawn from the groups of Soviet forces in the GDR, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary and will be disbanded. Airborne assault [desantno-shturmovyye] and a number of other combined units [soyedineniya] and other units [chasti] will also be withdrawn, including assault crossing [desantno-perepravochnyye] units, along with their armaments and combat hardware.

The Soviet forces stationed in these countries are being reduced by 50,000 men, and their armament by 5,000 tanks.

Under these conditions, Army Gen D. Yazov said, it is essential to resolve all the set tasks with still greater persistence and responsibility, so as to exclude the lowering of combat readiness and ensure a high degree of organization and discipline.

The paramount task is to display the maximum concern for people, for the fate of each officer and warrant officer and their families. It is important not to permit in the troop collectives, particularly the officer community, sentiments of pacifism and of a lack of prospects.

Of course, psychologically speaking the reduction is not a simple factor for the Army. It is necessary to do everything possible to prevent errors and hasty decisions. I want to emphasize—and this must be explained profoundly to everyone—that the reduction in the officer corps will be effected via those personnel who have completed the established term of service.

Great problems of a truly revolutionary nature are today being resolved by our party in the sphere of internal policy, the defense minister stated. The decisions adopted by the 27th congress and the 19th CPSU Conference are being realized: Via economic accountability and self-financing the economic reform is gathering strength, the process of the democratization of Soviet society is growing, and a socialist rule-of-law state is being established. The 28 November 1988 CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the subsequent extraordinary 12th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation transferred the implementation of the reform of the political system to the plane of practical realization.

The CPSU Central Committee plenum and the USSR Supreme Soviet session condemned extremism and separatism, demagoguery and nationalism in all their manifestations and hues, and clearly and unambiguously advocated the unity and friendship of the USSR's peoples. The future lies not in isolation, not in division and confrontation with one another, but in mutual respect for interests, in friendship and mutual assistance.

The events currently taking place in Armenia speak cogently of precisely this. The whole country has responded to the calamity which has befallen the republic. Soviet soldiers were among the first to go to its aid. Army Gen D. Yazov dwelt in detail on the scale and nature of this aid, emphasizing that the servicemen's participation in eliminating the consequences of the natural disaster is yet further evidence of the unbreakable tie between the people and the Army, and of the international character of our Armed Forces.

Next the defense minister focused on an analysis of the course of restructuring, and in the group of forces in particular. In the activity of the military councils and the leading command and political personnel, Army General D. Yazov said, the approach is now more specific and businesslike. Democracy and glasnost have become firmly established and the activeness and militancy of the party organizations are increasing. On the whole the reaction to shortcomings is now keener.

However it must be said bluntly that the incipient innovation in the activity of the command and political personnel and in the activity of the party organs which has been engendered by the restructuring has not so far led to any appreciable improvement of the overall results in the training of troops and strengthening of discipline. In everyday life one has occasion to encounter instances of irresponsibility, complacency, formalism, and bureaucracy which do not come in for a principled assessment even in the party organizations.

What are the reasons for this? The main reason is that many people have still not grasped the fact that restructuring means above all a new quality of work by each person in the sector entrusted to him. Even today some people feel as if they are merely at a rally and have not realized that a new stage arrived long ago in restructuring —the stage of strenuous practical work and specific action. The phenomenon has become widespread whereby a person learns how to say things in the new way but works in the old-fashioned manner, that is, without due responsibility and initiative, remaining in the thrall of inertia, stereotypy, and complacency.

The main content of restructuring in the Armed Forces is the implementation of the demands of the 19th party conference concerning guaranteeing priority for qualitative parameters in military organizational development.

In units and subunits this is achieved primarily by the high quality of combat and political training. It is necessary to achieve the unconditional fulfillment of all training plans and syllabi, the rational use of training time, and to increase the meaningful content of each study and training session.

This applies to all elements of the Armed Forces and to each army and navy party organization. A sharp turn is required now in the psychology of the men, and also a resolute struggle against the ingrained habit of tackling all issues on the basis of quantitative rather than qualitative parameters. Today, V.I. Lenin's precept—better fewer, but of better quality—is more topical than ever.

If a look is taken from these viewpoints at the specific work in the group's forces, it is impossible to overlook the fact that in many respects restrucuring is faltering. What has the final check shown? Behind the overall positive results some very serious shortcomings have also been brought to light.

In the work methods of the management organs there is a lack of businesslike efficiency, specificity, and responsibility for the actions of the troops under their control. Some generals and officers lose their heads when the situation changes and their practical skills in preparing an operation or battle, or in controling troops during combat actions are inadequate. The standard of methodological skill of the commanders remains low and there still persists the urge to oversimplify the situation and to make conditions easier for those undergoing training. The lack of planning in work and the postponements of exercises and study sessions are having an adverse effect on the organization of the units' life and are engendering unhealthy sentiments among the officers. The diversion of personnel from combat training is still excessive.

The main reason for the shortcomings is the low degree of responsibility on the part of some officials for the work entrusted to them. I would say, the minister stressed, that their attitude toward their post is one of overreliance on others to do the work. Take a look at the kind of facts you encounter. An officer may be in command of a regiment or a division for a year but then he picks up a map and is unable to report the procedure for organizing the defense or waging battle in his defensive zone. It is impossible to reconcile oneself to such an attitude toward matters.

The commander of a division, regiment, battalion, or company has no right to say that his conscience is clear if he knows that his subordinates are unable right now to carry out a combat assignment. This is not just his service duty, it is his party duty, too. Unfortunately we have not heard here of examples where the party organization has strictly taken to task a Communist for an irreponsible attitude to his chief obligation—to be ready for battle.

As before, questions of strengthening military discipline are acute issues. This also applies fully to the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. The CPSU has pointed out that a radical improvement in military discipline has not been achieved. It is necessary to proceed from this premise in practical work and seek the unswerving fulfillment of the party's demands.

Success is impossible without ensuring strict regulation order in each unit and subunit, the stepping up of work with the men, the enhancement of the effectiveness of all forms of educational work, and above all through targeting it at the specific individual.

The fact that the parents of servicemen frequently make complaints about such facts to various higher agencies eloquently attests to the acuteness of the problem of strengthening discipline, including the eradication of nonregulation relations. Everyone must realize that this is an issue of great political significance, a question of the Army's prestige and of the Soviet people's trust in the Army. And everything must be done to preserve and strengthen such trust.

In certain units of the group of forces the efficiency of the struggle against drunkenness has waned. Lawbreaking on the basis of drunkenness has not only not declined; it has even increased in a number of places. In some places the decision, in accordance with which the sale of brandy and dry wines has expanded somewhat, has virtually been regarded as a retreat from the course of combating this social evil. Everyone must realize that the struggle for a sober way of life will not be taken off the agenda.

Problems of interethnic relations in the military collectives need the closest attention these days. The events in Armenia and Azerbaijan and in the republics of the Soviet Baltic region confirm the danger of underestimating internationalist education. They cannot fail to affect sentiments among the servicemen, too, who have been drafted from those regions. It is essential to tune into these sentiments sensitively, to prevent their development in an unfavorable direction, and to avert their negative impact on the internationalist cohesion of the personnel. Today interethnic relations are an area for special attention. Internationalist education must be a constant process and be profoundly thought out.

A task of paramount significance is that of intensifying the education of the personnel in a spirit of internationalism, of friendship with the working people of the GDR, and of combat brotherhood with the servicemen of the National People's Army.

The officer has always been and still remains the key figure in the solution of all these tasks. In working constantly to enhance the political tempering, the moral, pedagogical, and legal standards, and the professional competence of the officer cadres, we thereby safeguard their authority and strengthen one-man command—that is how the question must be formulated today. It is important to teach the military cadres to work under conditions of glasnost and democracy.

In the struggle for strong discipline and for guaranteeing a vanguard role for the Communists, the strength, adherence to principle, and the influence of the party organizations are not being utilized in full measure. Many of them do not devote themselves properly to the nurturing of CPSU members and candidate members. For this reason the number of Communists against whom party proceedings are taken is not declining. Everyone must properly grasp the fact that if the primary political organs and the party committes and bureaus of the units' party organizations do not work in the new style, taking a concrete, responsible, and creative approach, then it is senseless to expect success. The primary party organization is the leading political force, the political nucleus, the vanguard of the military collectives.

One has had occasion repeatedly to see for oneself the inexhaustible potential of the army party organizations. They permeate the entire fabric of our military structure. They consitute a great force and therefore the process of restructuring must be deepened precisely here, above all on the path toward enhancing the activeness and militancy of the primary organizations, party committees and bureaus, and of the Communists and enhancing their vanguard role.

I particularly want to stress the importance of our work with the army Komsomol, D. Yazov said. Substantial adjustments need to be made in the party leadership of the Komsomol, taking into account the recent speech by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to the young people of Moscow in connection with the Komsomol's 70th anniversary. The very approach to work with young people ought to be decisively altered, the pedantic tone and administration by injunction must be abandoned, greater independence must be given to young people, and interest must be shown in Komsomol initiative. The Komsomol aktiv must patiently be taught the practice of working.

In a few days the new training year will begin. All the plans have already been put to bed and all the syllabi for the training of the troops have been approved. Ahead lies much complex work which requires the maximum composure, discipline, and responsibility on the part of all army Communists.

Today, as the times demand, the discussion at the conference is proceeding on a critical plane and those specifically to blame for shortcomings are being named. But we know that many remarkable Communists—commanders, political workers, and officers of the staffs—are at work in the group who are selflessly fulfilling their duty, working with a high degree of responsibility and furthering restructuring by their deeds. And all this inspires confidence that the tasks facing the group's troops in the new training year will be fulfilled.

The delegates of the GSFG party conference unanimously supported the proposal of the primary party organizations of the group's troops that M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, be nominated as a candidate from the CPSU for the people's deputies of the USSR. The proposal that Colonel General N.A. Moiseyev, member of the Military Council and chief of the GSFG Political Directorate, be nominated as a candidate from the CPSU for the people's deputies of the USSR was also supported.

Ground Forces Chief on New Regulations

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[Interview with USSR Ground Forces Commander in Chief Army General Ye. Ivanovskiy, USSR deputy defense minister, by Lieutenant Colonel S. Pashayev: "What the New Regulations Will Be Like"; date, place not given]

[Text] [Pashayev] There have been many queries in the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA mailbag about the new general military regulations: Have they been elaborated, when will they be approved, why have the drafts not been widely discussed... What do you have to say on the subject?

[Ivanovskiy] The readers' concern is understandable. After all, it is more than 13 years since the current regulations were approved. In that time—particularly in the past 3 years—there have been many changes in our life. In particular, the Armed Forces' organizational structure is undergoing refinement, demands for combat readiness and discipline have increased, and the democratization process is actively under way. A whole series of new legislative acts has appeared. All this, naturally, dictates the need to elaborate new general military regulations.

And it must be stressed that we are talking not just about the odd, isolated amendment or addition to the existing formulas. What was required was the elaboration of totally new provisions which will regulate the life and service of Army and Navy personnel in the next few years. In so doing we have sought, of course, to preserve the long experience of an Army that has operated in accordance with regulations in various conditions and has carried out various tasks, not to lose all the valuable elements in the existing regulations, and to stress that the democracy that is being established presupposes and is based on a high degree of discipline, awareness, and reponsibility on the part of the people performing their military duty. We are the special commission (I am its chairman) that is coordinating all work on the preparation of the draft regulations.

I can say that the drafts are essentially complete. Obviously, they can soon be submitted for approval, taking into account the decisions made at the extraordinary 12th Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th Convocation.

As for discussion of the drafts, I have to say that, as far as I know, never in any country have documents of this kind been the subject of a national referendum, which is what some KRASNAYA ZVEZDA readers are advocating. Nevertheless, by and large their elaboration has been conducted on a democratic basis. During the 3 years—and that is how long the preparation has taken—the draft regulations were twice sent to all USSR Defense Ministry central apparatus administrations and to the forces, up to and including combined units. The commission received around 8,000 comments and suggestions in all. A considerable number have been incorporated in the final version, which was examined and approved at the USSR Defense Ministry collegium.

[Pashayev] Which of the proposed changes to the regulations will be of most interest to those who will soon be observing them in life and in service?

[Ivanovskiy] There are many changes. It is proposed that the Internal Service Regulations of the USSR Armed Forces include, for example, a new section, "General Provisions," which will set out the demands of the USSR Constitution as applied to the Armed Forces and the general concepts of military service and internal order. On the basis of the realities of the military-political situation, the continuing threat of war, the new Soviet military doctrine, qualitative improvements in military activities, and the harsh lessons of the past, the draft regulations pay considerable attention to matters of increasing vigilance and combat readiness and improving the organization and conduct of alert duty. A new chapter—"Alert Duty"—is proposed.

Hitherto the general military regulations have defined servicemen's duties in detail, but they have not indicated, not specified their rights. Now the draft has a section setting out the general rights and duties of citizens.

As far as the duties of commanders or other immediate superiors are concerned, it is proposed that it be particularly emphasized that in the leadership of multinational collectives commanders (superiors) must rigorously observe the fundamental demands of Lenin's nationalities policy and show special concern for strengthening friendship and fraternity between servicemen of different nationalities.

The draft regulations particularly stress the priority importance of combat and political training. It says that it is the "basic ingredient of the day-to-day activity of servicemen in peacetime." And it is stressed that "classes and exercises must be conducted without indulgence and oversimplification in order to ensure high-quality training of servicemen in modern warfare." The draft points out that commanders guilty of keeping personnel away from combat and political training classes without the permission of the regimental commander will be disciplined.

In connection with the personnel organization changes, the duties and subordination of a whole range of officials have been clarified. In view of proposals that have been made (including those in the press), it was deemed advisable to include in the commander's (superior's) general duties a provision relating to nature conservation.

[Pashayev] The fundamental changes also affected other regulations, no doubt?

[Ivanovskiy] Indeed, the choice of new types of incentives and penalities required particularly careful consideration, for example, when preparing the draft Disciplinary Regulations of the USSR Armed Forces. In particular, it proposed that the incentive of priority leave of up to 24 hours should now be envisaged for soldiers, seamen, sergeants, and petty officers and the early conferment of senior warrant officer and senior ensign ranks on warrant officers and ensigns. For officers—an entry in the unit roll of honor and conferment of the next military rank up to colonel and captain 1st class inclusive, one step higher than the military rank stipulated for the position held. Subunit commanders also have broader rights in the matter of giving their subordinates incentives.

As for disciplinary penalties, the "admonition" is abolished for all categories of servicemen, as being of no practical use. At the same time, the draft includes a new penalty—"lowering or deprivation of military specialty skill rating." It is also stipulated that soldiers can be assigned to a detail without waiting their turn; not only a service detail (except for guard, watch, and alert duty) but also a work detail. And it is proposed that the use of this form of penalty should again be granted to young commanders as well, including section commanders.

It is envisaged that senior officers will not now be subject to guardhouse confinement.

It is proposed that the USSR Armed Forces Manual of Garrison and Guard Duties should have two new chapters: "Garrison Military Vehicle Inspection" and "Features of the Organization and Conduct of Guard Duty Using Security Devices and Security and Fire Warning Signals."

The draft regulations also include a whole series of new provisions intended to instill in personnel relations of friendship, cohesion, and genuine comradeship, improving servicemen's everyday life, providing them with regulation types of food, and making them healthier. It is envisaged that the unit should have, in particular, a sports room (area). Considerable attention is devoted to the elaboration of provisions on security measures, whose violation leads to extremely grave consequences in modern conditions.

In connection with the greater number of Army and Navy posts being occupied by women, accepted for active military service on a voluntary basis, the draft new regulations include additions determining the features of the organization and conduct of internal, garrison, and guard service by women servicemen.

It is proposed that a number of provisions which have ceased to have any significance should be removed from the regulations and that some obsolete terms and concepts should be changed.

In general, it seems to me, the new regulations will help increase the Armed Forces' combat readiness, strengthen military discipline, and promote the active implementation of the party's principle that the effectiveness of Soviet military building should be ensured predominantly by qualitative parameters both with regard to equipment and with regard to personnel.